

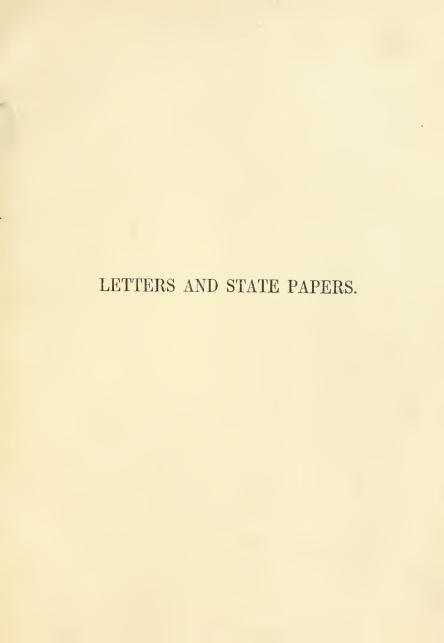
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James would of Manne to suffer eskernes fauchour James by sternelt. Drog I Grag Blantyry. Thurthe. The Eallonan Binning & James Simbio Melvos to gues Mp Goesau of Munay Mex hogy Dunfermeling vero vibroils Aroub. Odanom mor. L. webstil Halyridge & forth DMM/2 Secono Bobertuelino Balmermos
Mar. Spilande Bulaclughre





7

LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

DURING THE

REIGN OF KING JAMES THE SIXTH.

CHIEFLY FROM THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF SIR JAMES BALFOUR OF DENMYLN.

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CONTENTS.

		PAGE
	Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord-Keeper, to Queen Elizabeth, September [1577-78?]	1
	Monsieur Le Comte de Nassau au Roy D'Ecosse, October 6, 1588,	4
3.	Jacques VI. a Mousieur Le Comte de Nassau, September 19, 1592,	5
4.	King James VI. to Queen Elizabeth, April 13, 1594,	6
5.	King James VI. to the Earl of Essex, April 13, 1594,	7
6.	Sir William Keith to James VI., February 4, 1596,	8
7.	Co. Mills Thomas Foulis August 15, 1506	13
8.	Earl of Errol to James VI., July 1, 1596,	16
	Jacobus Sextus Magnificis et Nobilibus Zelandiæ Ordinibus, 1596,	18
	Jacobus Sextus dilecto familiari suo Gulielmo Keith, November 1596,	20
11.	Jacobus Sextus Serenissimo Principi Venetiarum Duci, November 1596, .	22
12.	Adrian Damman de Bysterveldt au Roy D'Escosse, December 4, 1596, .	23
	Adrian Damman de Bysterveldt au Roy D'Escosse, December 10, 1596,	25
14	. Les Estats Generaulx des Provinces Unies au Serenissime Roy D'Escosse, D	e-
	cember 28, 1596,	27
15	Earl of Huntly to James VI.,	29
16	. Earl of Errol to James VI.,	31
17	. Le Comte de Nassau au Roy D'Ecosse, January 10, 1597,	32
	. Presbytery of Aberdeen to the Ministers of Lothian, January 1596,	33
	. Robert Lord Crichton of Sanquhar to James VI., September 3, 1597,	35
	Private Instructions by James VI. to his Ambassadors,	37
21	. From an Unknown Person, perhaps, to the Lord of Kinloss,	38
22	. Jacobus VI. Invictissimo Principi Shaugh Abbas, 1601,	41
	Sir James Colville to the Lord of Kinloss, 1603,	43
24	Lord Fyvie to James VI., April 29, 1603,	47
25	6. Earl of Montrose to James VI., May 10, [1603?]	48

		PAG	32
26.	Earl of Montrose to James VI., May 13, 1603,	45	
27.	The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., May 18, [1603?]	. 5	l
28.	Lord Fyvie to James VI., May 30, 1603,	5	3
2 9.	Earl of Montrose to James VI., June 1, 1603,	5	7
30.	Earl of Angus to James VI., November 20, 1604,	5	8
31.	Marquis of Huntly to James VI., November 20, 1604,	. 6	0
32.	Earl of Angus to James VI.,	. 6	2
33.	The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., February 1, 1605,	. 6	4
34.	Lord Balmerino to James VI., June 9, 1605,	. 6	5
35.	Lord Fyvie to James VI., March 3, 1605,	6	7
36.	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., March 23, 1605,	. 6	8
37.	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., April 20, 1605,	7	l
38.	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., June 22, 1605,	. 7	3
39.	Earl of Montrose to James VI., November 29, 1605,	. 7	4
40.	Earl of Errol to James VI., January 21, 1606,	. 7	6
41.	Earl of Mar to James VI., January 21, 1606,	. 7	7
42.	Earl of Dunfermline and Lord Balmerino to James VI., April 18, 1606,	. 7	9
43	Earl of Errol to James VI., March 16, 1606,	. 8	0
44.	. Earl of Errol to James VI., July 13, 1606,	8	31
45.	. The Lords of Privy Council to the Earl of Dunbar, July 26, 1606,	. 8	33
46	. The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., August 27, 1606,	. 8	35
47	. Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., September 4, 1606,	. 8	37
48	. Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., October 1606,	. 8	88
49	. Farl of Dunfermline to James VI., October 30, 1606,	. 9	90
50	. The Commissioners of the General Assembly to James VI., December 16,	1606,	92
5 l	. Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., January 7, 1607,		94
52	Lord Balmerino to James VI., January 21, 1607,	. :)(
53	. Marquis of Huntly to James VI.,	. (99
54	. Earl of Argyle to James VI., February 28, [1607],	. 10)]
55	. The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., March 3, 1607,	. 10)2
56	The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., March 3, 1607,	. 10)-
57	. Earl of Glencairn to James VI., March 4, 1607,	10	06
58	Reverend Patrick Galloway to James VI., April 7, 1607,	10	08
50	The Lord Chancellor to James VI., April 9, 1607,	. 1	1

	CONTENTS.				X
60.	Lord Gray to the Lords of the Privy Council, April 8, 1607,				PAGI
	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., August 21, 1607,				114
	Lord Holyroodhouse to James VI., August 25, 1607,				116
	Earl of Abercorn to James VI., August 26, 1607,		·		117
	The Farmers-General of the Customs to James VI.,			•	120
	Marquis of Huntly to James VI., February 6, [1608?]		•		122
	Marquis of Huntly to James VI., February 26, [1608?]				124
	The Marquis of Hamilton to James VI., March 1, 1608,		·		125
	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., March 5, 1608,				127
	The Laird of Luss to James VI., April 23, 1608,				129
	Lord Balmerino to James VI., May 1608,				131
	Earl of Angus to James VI., May 25, 1608,				132
	The Commissioners of the Burghs to James VI., July 8, 1608,				134
	Sir Andrew Murray of Balvaird to James VI., July 13, 1608,				136
	Lord Scone to James VI.,				139
	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., August 3, 1608,				140
	Earl of Angus to James VI., August 10, 1608, .				144
	The Marquis of Huntly to James VI., August 12, [1608?]				145
	The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., August 18, 1608,				147
	The Rev. Robert Durie to James VI., October 21, 1608,				148
	The Rev. Patrick Symsone to James VI., November 10, 1608,				151
	The Rev. John Hall and the Rev. Peter Hewatt to James VI.,	Nov	. 10.	1608.	153
	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., December 2, 1608,				154
83.	Earl of Cassillis to James VI., December 3, 1608,				155
84.	Lord Blantyre to James VI., December 17, 1608,				156
85.	The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., February 16, 1609,				159
	Earl of Angus to James VI., February 16, 1609,				160
87.	The Laird of Edzell to James VI., March 30, 1609,				161
88.	The Rev. Patrick Symsone to the Commissioners of the Gen	eral	Asse	embly,	

163

165

167

168

170

April 3, 1609,

89. The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., May 16, 1609,

91. Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., July 5, 1609,

90. William Fullartoun of that Ilk to James VI., . . .

92. Jane Stewart, Lady Lindores, to James VI., August 3, 1609,

0.0	E 1 CD Coultry to Ivery VI Avenue 10 1600			171
	Earl of Dunfermline to James VI., August 12, 1609,	•	•	
-	Earl of Angus to James VI., October 30, [1609?]			174
95.	Oath tendered to the Marquis of Huntly and the Earl of Errol,	Nove	mber 13	2 80 50
. 2	and 17, 1609,	•	•	175
		٠	•	177
	Alexander Colquboun of Luss to James VI., November 13, 1609		•	178
	The Inhabitants of the late Borders of Scotland to James VI.,	٠	*	179
	Marquis of Huntly to James VI., February 15, 1610,	•	•	183
	Countess of Crawford to James VI., February 17, 1610,			184
	Rev. John Hall and Rev. Peter Hewat to James VI., February			185
102.	Warrant appointing Peter Rollok of Piltoun one of the Extrao	rdinai	ry Lords	
	of Session, May 16, 1610,			186
	Marquis of Huntly to James VI., June 18, [1610?]	•	٠	189
	Warrant by James VI. in favour of the Earl of Angus, [1610?]	٠	•	191
	James VI. to the Lords of the Privy Council, July 6, 1610,	•	٠	191
	Earl of Glencairn to James VI.,	•	٠	192
	Earls of Dunfermline and Dunbar to James VI., July 27, 1610,	٠		193
	Sir Robert Melville to James VI.,	•		196
	. The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., May 3, 1611,	٠	٠	199
	. The University of St Andrews to James VI., May 4, 1611,	٠	٠	200
111	. James VI. to Sir Arthur Chichester, September 14, 1611,	٠		201
	. The Commissioners of the Burghs to James VI.,			202
	. W. Wheitfurde to John Murray, May 16, 1612,	٠	٠	204
622114	. W. Wheitfurde to John Murray, May 28, 1612, 5			206
115	. The Magistrates of Canongate to James VI., September 26, 16	12,		207
116	. Sir Duncan Campbell to James VI., February 2, 1613,		٠	209
117	. Jacobus VI. Civitati Gedanensi, [1613?]			211
118	. Jacobus VI. Johanni Spemanno, [1613?]			212
119	. Sir Alexander Hay to James VI., July 4, [1613?]	٠		213
120	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, February 10, 1614,			215
121	. Sir Gideon Murray to James VI., June 9, 1614,			216
122	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, June 30, 1614,			218
123	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, July 8, 1614,			219
124	. Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, July 15, 1614,			221

	CONTENTS.				XIt
125.	The Earl Marischal to James VI., July 28, 1614,				PAG:
	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, July 29, 1614,				220
	Sir Lachlan Maeintosh of Dunachtan to James VI., August 3, 1	614,			226
	Earl of Abercorn to John Murray, September 12, 1614, .				229
129.	Archbishop of Canterbury to John Murray, September 17, 1614				23
130.	Earl of Abercorn to John Murray, October 3, 1614,				233
131.	Sir Alexander Hay to [John Murray?] October 6, [1614?]				235
	Earl of Mar to John Murray, November 25, 1614,				239
133.	Earl of Abercorn to John Murray, December 6, 1614,				239
	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, December 9, 1614, .				240
135.	Reasons for the Burrows of Scotland in support of their Freights o	f For	eign :	Ships,	243
	Sir R. Macleod to King James VI.,			•	24
137.	John Carse to the Bishop of Ross, January 10, [1615]?]				248
138.	Sir Hugh Montgomery to John Murray, January 10, [1615?]				250
139.	Note of Proceedings of Privy Council, January 24, 1615,				25
	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, January 28, 1615,				256
141.	Lord Sanguhar to John Murray, February 1, [1615?]				25
142.	Sir John Cockburn of Ormiston to James VI., February 3, 1615	,			260
143.	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, February 24, 1615,				265
144.	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, [March 1615?] .				263
145.	Lord Gordon and James Mowat to James VI., February [1615?)			26
146.	Earl of Angus to James VI., October 11, 1615,				266
147.	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, November 24, 1615,				267
148.	James VI. to the Lord Chancellor and remanent Lords of the Co	Hege	of Ju	ıstice,	
	December 3, 1615				269
149.	Lord Cranstoun to John Murray, December 9, 1615, .				270
150.	Lord Scott of Buccleuch to [John Murray?] December 9, 1615,				271
151.	Sir Alexander Hay to John Murray, December 21, [1615],				273
152.	Sir Alexander Hay to John Murray, December 21, 1615,				275
153.	The Earl of Crawford and Lord Spynie to James VI., [1615?]				276
154.	Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig to John Murray, January 6,	161	6,		278
155.	Earl of Tullibardine to John Murray, January 6, 1616,				280
156.	Francis, titular Earl of Bothwell, to John Murray, January 8, 16	16,			282
157.	Lord Sanquhar to John Murray, January 9, [1616?] .				283

		PAGE
158.	Earl of Errol to John Murray, January 12, 1616,	286
159.	Earl of Caithness to James VI., January 26, 1616,	287
160.	Countess of Eglintoun to [Mrs Murray?] 1616,	288
161.	Earl of Lothian to James VI., April 10, 1616,	291
162.	Lord Melville to James VI., April 1616,	293
163.	Francis, titular Earl of Bothwell, to James VI., May 26, 1616,	294
164.	Earl of Montrose to James VI., August 27, 1616,	296
165.	Earl of Home to the Lord Chancellor, December 8, 1616,	297
166.	The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., March 14, 1616,	299
167.	Articles given by the Justices of Peace for Aberdeen, [1617?]	300
168.	James VI. to the Privy Conneil, [June 1617?]	302
169.	Sir Gideon Murray to James VI., September 9, 1617,	304
170.	Reverend Patrick Galloway to James VI., November 5, 1617,	305
171.	Oliver St John to James VI., November 25, 1617,	310
172.	Anne Countess of Argyll to John Murray, [1617?]	. 312
173.	Anne Countess of Argyll to John Murray, [1617?]	313
174.	Sir James Lundie to James VI., April 8, 1618,	314
175.	His Majesty's Answer to the Council, [1618?]	316
176.	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, February 19, 1619,	318
177.	Note of the Proceedings of the Privy Council, August 25, 1619, .	. 319
178.	Earl of Tullibardine to James VI., [1620?]	321
179.	Earl of Tullibardine to James Vl., [1620?]	322
180.	James VI. to the Privy Council, [No date,]	323
181.	Articles of Agreement between the Earl and Countess of Hume and Jo	ado
	Stewart, April 12, 1620,	324
182.	Sir Gideon Murray to James VI., June 30, 1620,	32 8
183.	Mr H. Blyth to the Reverend Henry Charteris, December 26, 1620,	. 330
184.	Earl of Dunfermline to John Murray, January 30, 1621,	332
185.	Magistrates of Edinburgh to James VI., April 6, 1621,	333
186.	Earl of Morton to James Vl., April 18, 1621,	335
187.	Earl of Mar to James VI., April 25, 1621,	336
188.	The Trew Informatioun of the Acsident fallin out betuix Drumlangrig a	ınd
	Casschogill vpon Saturday the tuelff Day of May 1621 yeire,	337
189.	James VI. to the Marquis of Hamilton, 1621,	. 340

	CONTENTS.	X
190.	Earl of Mar to John Murray,	PAG 34
191.	Instructions by James VI., relative to the Action brought by the Earl of Mar	
	for the recovery of the Barony of Kildrimmie,	34
192.	Countess of Mar to John Murray, June 16, 1622.	34
193.	Earl of Mar to John Murray, June 20, 1622,	34
194.	Earl of Mar to James VI., October 10, 1622,	34
195.	Lady Beatrix Ruthven to James VI., October 10, 1622,	34
196.	Earl of Mar to James VI., November 24, 1622,	35
197.	Earl of Buccleuch to the Viscount of Annand, [1623?]	35
198.	Thomas Nicolson to the Viscount of Annand, January 27, 1623,	35
199.	The Viscount of Stormont to the Viscount of Annand, February, [1623?]	35
200.	The Lords of Privy Council to James VI., July 15, 1623,	35
201.	Sir James Bailie to the Viscount of Annand, October 10, 1623,	35
202.	The Viscount of Lauderdale to the Viscount of Annand, November 27, 1623,	36
203.	Sir James Baillie to the Viscount of Annand, [November 1623], .	36
204.	John Ashburnham to the Lord Chancellor Hay, April 8, 1624,	36
205.	The Earl of Seaforth to the Lord Chancellor, July 4, [1624],	36
206.	Scotish Subjects at Dantzig to James Vl., August 30, 1624,	36
207.	Francis Hay to the Lord Chancellor, November 5, 1624,	36
208.	The Lord Chancellor Hay to James VI., November 8, 1624,	36
209.	The Lord Chancellor Hay to James VI., [1624?]	37
210.	James VI. to the Lord Chancellor Hay, January 12, 1625,	37
211.	John Wolfe to James VI.,	37
212.	Samuel Cockburne to James VI.,	37
213.	Witnesses produceit by Alexander Innes of Coittis againes the Laird of Balvane	
	and his Brother,	380
214.	Informatioun for the Adwocattis and remanent Memberis of the Sessioun, tuich-	

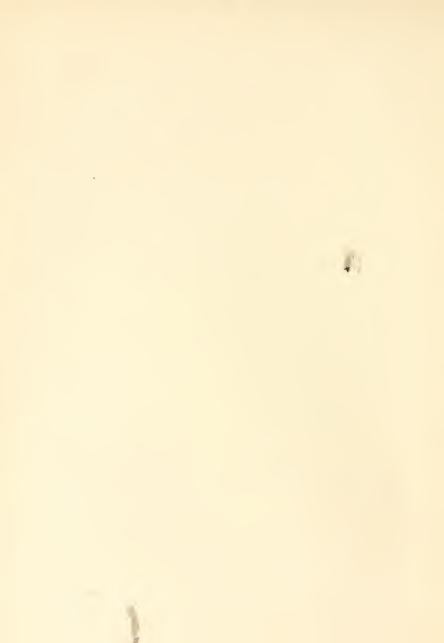
ing thair Priuiledges,

215. The Accompt of my Diligens in the Seruice committed to mee, with a Motion commended to his Maiestie from his Embassadour at the Haghe, [by Patrick

Scot],

382

385



PREFATORY NOTICE.

The Papers contained in the present volume, with the exception of two interesting Letters communicated by Mr David Laing, Librarian to the Society of Writers to the Signet, are taken from the Collections of the Earl of Balcarres, and of Sir James Balfour of Denmiln, Bart., Lord Lyon King at Arms, both of which are preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

The Balcarres Papers were collected by John Lindsay of Menmuir, Secretary of State to James VI.,* and gifted to the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, in the year 1712, by his descendant, Colin, third Earl of Balcarres. They were little known till within these few years, having neither been sorted nor arranged in any manner of way; and it was not till some time after the appointment of the present learned Librarian that they were withdrawn from their obscure recesses, and

He died at the age of forty-nine, on the 3d of September 1598.

made available to the public. The greater proportion of them refers to the reign of the Queen Regent, Mary of Lorraine, and includes an extensive correspondence with the Court of France, in which are to be found letters of Catherine de Medicis, Henry II., the celebrated Anne Constable de Montmorency, Diana of Poictiers (Duchess of Valentinois), and other equally distinguished persons. The letters during the reign of James VI. are comparatively few, and relate chiefly to his negotiations with foreign powers, to obtain their recognisal of his right of eventual succession to the Crown of England. They possess considerable interest, and have, with some few exceptions,* been included in the present volume.

The Balfour MSS, were purchased in 1698 by the Faculty for L.150 sterling, no inconsiderable sum in those days. Amongst these are several volumes of Memorials and Letters of State, during the reign of King James, chiefly after his accession to the Crown of England; and it is from them principally that a selection has been made, of such papers as it was thought would throw light upon the civil and political history of Scotland during that period.

A small portion of their contents had previously been made public by Lord Hailes, in a small volume, entitled "Memorials and Letters relating to the History of Britain in the Reign of

^{*} These having been included in the Analecta Scotica (2 vols. 8vo, Edin. 1836-1837), it was not deemed advisable to reprint them here.

James the First."* His Lordship, adverting in his preface to the Editors of Collections of the present description, remarks that they "are generally considered as dull tasteless men, who seek no farther merit in a paper than that of being old or scarcely legible: they have, however, their pretensions to literary fame; and, indeed, those pretensions are so moderate, that it is hard to reject them altogether.

"To invention, to accuracy of composition, or elegance of style, they can offer no claim; they are not historians, they only prepare materials for history; they chuse out blocks from the quarry, and having, with much patience and toil, brought them above ground, they leave them there to be polished and arranged by more able artists."

From a claim so modestly preferred it would be unjust to dissent, and the Editor ventures to believe, that as he seeks no higher praise than what is asked by the estimable and learned Judge, his demands will not savour of pretension. He is hopeful that much curious and valuable information has been collected together as to the state of Scotland at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and he thinks that the Monarch who then swayed the sceptre, throughout the whole of the correspondence in this volume,† displays more talent and good sense than is usually ascribed to him. Indeed, we suspect that the character of the "sapient" Monarch has not been generally un-

[.] Glasgow. Foulis, 1766. Small 8vo.

[†] The Melros Papers, which have been wholly taken from the Balfour MSS., afford still stronger proofs of his Majesty's vigorous intellect and sound discretion.

derstood, or appreciated by the historians of his reign, and that, in place of exercising a sound judgment, they have, whilst emptying their vials of wrath upon him, too frequently been influenced by political predilections.

One very important fact seems to have been almost entirely overlooked, that when James first assumed the reins of government he found the kingdom in a semi-barbarous state, and that he left it in a state of comparative civilization. There is a remarkable letter, addressed by Lord Binning to his Majesty,* containing a report of the substance of a speech made by him in the Scotish Parliament, in which, after making every allowance for the usual courtly flattery, enough remains to show the inestimable benefits conferred by James upon his country. He says—" Omitting to particularize the generall benefites done to oure people in England and Ireland, I schew that the blessingis of justice and peace, and fruittis arvsing thairof, did so obleis euerie one of ws, as no thing in oure power could equal it; desyring that it might be remembered, that whairas the Ilanders oppressed the Hielandmen, the Hielanders tirannised ouer thair Lawland nighbours; the powerfull and violent in the in-cuntrie domineered ouer the lynes and goodes of thair weak nighbours; the Bordourars triumphed in the impunitie of thair violences to the portes of Edinburgh; that treasons, murthours, burningis, thiftis, reiffis, hearschippis, hoching of oxin, breaking of milnes, destroying

^{* 7}th March 1617. Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 270.

of growand cornis, and barbarities of all sortes, wer exerced in all pairtes of the cuntrie, no place nor person being exemed or inviolable, Edinburgh being the ordinarie place of butcherlie reuenge, and daylie fightis; the paroche churches and churche-yairds being more frequented vpon the Sounday for aduantages of nighbourlie malice and mischeif nor for Godis seruice; nobilmen, barons, gentilmen, and people of all sortes, being slaughtered, as it wer, in publict and vncontrollable hostilities; merchandes robbed, and left for dead in daylight, going to thair mercats and faires of Montrois, Wigton, and Berwick; ministers being durked in Stirling, buried quick in Cliddisdaill, and murthoured in Galloway; merchandis of Edinburgh being waited in thair passage to Leith to be maid prisoners and ransoumed; and all vther abominations, which setled be inveterat custume and impunitie, appeired to be of desperat remeid, had bene so repressed, puneissed, and aboleissed be your maiesties wisdome, caire, power, and expensis, as no nation in earth could now compaire with our prosperities; whairby we wer bund to retribute to your maiestie, if it wer the verie half of our hairt bloud."

This is a fearful, but we believe a true picture of the state of Scotland at the commencement of the reign of James VI. In its most important essentials it is corroborated by contemporary writers; and surely a Monarch who, in the course of a few years, could, by his energy and perseverance, put down anarchy and restore order, deserves something better from pos-

terity than the appellations of a roi-faineant, an empty pedant, or arbitrary tyrant. James had acquired wisdom in the school of adversity, and early in life had learned the absolute necessity of curbing the power of an unprincipled nobility, in whose hands he was held merely as a puppet. This object he steadily pursued, and ultimately effected; for it is worthy of remembrance, that when he quitted the land of his birth for the sister kingdom, he left behind him no powerful family whose influence and intrigues might disturb the peace and prosperity of the commonwealth.* His adroitness, too, in the measures he adopted to ensure the support of foreign powers, in the event of the succession to the Crown of England opening to him, evinces great foresight and wisdom; indeed, so anxious was he to secure the co-operation of every one that by possibility might be able to assist him in the objects he had in view, that even the petty Italian Princes were conciliated, and trustworthy persons privately sent to propitiate them.† Nor is it the least remarkable feature in the matter, that these multifarious negotiations were carefully concealed from the knowledge of the vigilant and jealous Elizabeth.

James has been sneered at by his enemies for his theological acquirements, which are admitted at all hands to have been con-

Whatever may have been the real truth of what is commonly denominated the Gowry Conspiracy, there can be little doubt that James was not sorry that an opportunity had occurred by which a family so powerful for wealth, influence, and talent, could be put down.

[†] It was these secret and mysterious negotiations with Catholic potentates, that gave rise to the notion of the King's inclination for Popery. The Editor has elsewhere observed, that James was too fond of power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope,

siderable; but his knowledge of the principles and practice of laws in general, and especially of those in Scotland, is not so generally known. There is, however, an existing memorial of his extraordinary legal ability in the award pronounced by him upon the mutual claims of the heir-male and the bastard son of the last Lord, to the Barony of Sanquhar.* In this case there was a diversity of opinion, and of four of the first lawyers in Scotland, two were on one side, and two on another. His Majesty, who liked nothing better than settling a disputed point, undertook the final arbitrement of the cause; and the result of his deliberations may be found in an argument which, for soundness, learning, and eloquence, will not easily be matched.

We trust our readers will forgive us for these hasty observations in favour of a Prince whom it has been very much the fashion to run down and ridicule; and we shall conclude them by observing, that although we do not pretend to justify all his measures, or to assert that his character was free from blemish, still it is our conscientious belief that justice has not been done to him in regard to his Scotish administration, which was generally wise, salutary, and efficient.†

The Melros Papers, presented to the Club by the President, and the present volume, contain by far the greater part of the

[·] See Abbotsford Miscellany, vol. i.

[†] D'Israeli, the author of the amusing "Curiosities of Literature," has vindicated the English government of his Majesty, and we think successfully, in "An Enquiry into the Literary and Political Character of James the First." London, 1816. Crown 8vo. As usually happens in vindications, the author is carried away by his subject; but still, in the main, he is evidently right.

more important portion of the Balfour MS. relative to the time of James the First. But there still remains in manuscript what must be considered a most valuable addition to our memorials of the time,—the correspondence of Archbishop Spottiswood, the Church Historian, and of other eminent churchmen;—these documents, which relate much more to the civil than to the ecclesiastical history of Scotland, would supply many deficiencies, and form a most suitable sequel to the preceding Collections.

The reader will doubtlessly be struck by the sycophantish manner and abject style in which the Sovereign is uniformly addressed, nor will he overlook the profusion of idle protestation and laudatory expression in which most of the writers indulge in their correspondence; but he must not infer from this any unusual or uncalled for subserviency. It was the custom of the time; and if he has the curiosity to look into the "Academy of Complements,"* the text-book of the courtiers of the seventeenth century, he will find most of the "Superscriptions" and "Subscriptions," as they are termed, that occur in the present volume. Thus, the "superscription" to the King is, "To the most Sacred, most Gracious, most High, most Mighty, most Puissant, and Victorious Monarch, his Majesty of Great Brittain."—To a Pa-

[•] See "The Academy of Complements, wherein ladies, gentlewomen, schollers, and strangers, may accommodate their courtly practice with gentile ceremonies, complementall amorous high expressions, and form of speaking or writing letters most in fashion. A worke perused, exactly perfected, every where corrected, and inriched by the author with additions of witty poems and pleasant songs." 7th Edition. London, 1646. 12mo.

tron, "To the onely hope of his fortunes;" the "subscription" being, "the honourer of your matchlesse perfections." When addressing "his beloved friend," he subscribes "your assured;"—"the lovingst of all my friends,"—"yours inseperably,"—"his highly esteemed friend,"—"yours as I have professed." It is unnecessary to multiply instances; but those above noticed demonstrate that there was nothing unusual in the manner in which the various letters contained in this volume were either "superscribed" or "subscribed."

The Editor regrets that two or three mistakes in the Notes, entirely of a clerical description, escaped notice while correcting the sheets for press.* A very interesting letter, relative to the suppression of the Clangregor, which was subsequently discovered, has, instead of being placed at the end of the book, been added as an Appendix to the present desultory observations.

J. M.

10, Forbes Street, 1st May 1838.

^{*} Subsequent for subsequently, p. 67, &c. &c.

The Selection of Papers contained in this volume will, I trust, be considered a valuable addition to the Collections already published, relative to the same period of Scottish History. I cannot, however, present them to the Abbotsford Club without expressing the obligations which I owe to Mr Maidment, for his very able and ready assistance in the selection and arrangement of them. He has undertaken the whole editorial labour, and has furnished the Prefatory Notice, and the many curious and interesting notes relating to the individuals and events referred to in these Papers: and I feel assured that the Club will unite with me in appreciating his great zeal and research in the preparation of the present volume for publication.

ADAM ANDERSON.

Edinburgh, 1st May 1838.

THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND THE LORD REGISTER TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1612.

PLEIS JOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The Erle of Ergyle compeiring this day befoir 30ure maiefties counfaill, he exhibite ellevin of that nomber of the Clangregor refting vpoun him be his formair accompt, who hes changeit thair names, and found caution, conforme to the ordoure. He hes a warrand grantit to him for his repair towards 30ur maieftie, according to 30ure maiefties plefour and directioun, fygnefeit vnto ws by 50ure maiefties lettre of the fecond of this inftant, and he hes nominat the Laird of Lundy, his bruther,* to haue a cair of the profequution of that feruice till his returne,

• In a note of the Privy Council Proceedings in the same volume containing this letter, it is stated, "The Laird of Lundie, brother to the Earl of Argyle, being to repair to Court to confer with his brother anent the service of the Clangregour, as he pretendes, he hes nominat the Laird of Laweris to haue the charge of that seruice till his return, and vpoun Laweris acceptatioun of the charge, Lundie is to haue a license for his vpcuming."

There is a Minute of the Council Meetings, dated 8th July 1613, from which it appears, that the Earl of Argyle appeared and freely offered to the King L.22, 10s, out of every hundred pounds of the fines exacted from those who had received any of the Claugregour which should come into his hands. It is also stated, "The landislordis of the Claugregour who should have taine the hairnis of the Claugregour off the Laird of Laweris hands," had "failzied in that poynt, and thairfore charges are directed againes thame for payment to Lawers of the sowme of tuentie mark out of energy merk land pertening to thame, and formerly possest by the Claugregour."

Latterly, (30th November 1613,) it was resolved, that the laudlords should not be called upon to pay any contribution, provided they took the Clangregour bairns. This proposal those present agreed to; and the conditions ultimately adjusted were, that the children should be distributed amongst them according "to the proportion of their lands,"—that they should be bound to keep them, and to make them furthcoming when called for, until they were eighteen years of age, when they should be exhibited to the Privy Council, and their subsequent fate decided upon. If any of these unfortunate creatures should escape from his

who hes vndertane the charge, with promiffis to do his indevoir to bring the fame to fome fetled perfectioun. We haif had findrie conferenceis anent the bairnis of the Clangregour, and hes confultit and advisit heir-vpoun with the landislordis, whose aduise and opinioun is, that that ftring fall not be tuitcheit, nor no motioun maid thereof, quhill the feruice in handis agains the men be first fetled and brought to ane end; at whiche tyme the executioun of everie futche course as falbe then resolued vpoun agains the bairnis may with the lesse difficultie be effectuat. This is all that hes bene done with him at this meiting. So, with our hairty prayeris vnto God, recommending 50ure maiestie to Godis devyne protectioun, we [rest]

Jour Maiefties most humble and obedient fubicatis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLARIUS. ALEX^R. HAY.

Edinburgh, 18 Sep. 1612.

To the King his most Sacred and Excellent Maiestie.

keeper, the resetter to be bound to relieve the landlord of all "pane and dauger" he might incur through his flight; and moreover, to be liable to such "arbitrall censure and punishment," as the Council should think fit to ioflict. The child so escaping, if under fourteen, to be scourged and burnt on the cheek for the first escape, and hanged for the second:—If above fourteen, to be hanged at once without further ceremony.

The next day a roll was made up and sworn to by Glenurquby and the other lairds. The laudlords were enjoined to keep and present the children under the penalty of two hundred pounds Scots for the child of a chieftain; one hundred pounds for the child of an under chieftain; and forty pounds for children of meaner rank.

LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF

THE REIGN OF JAMES VI.

I .- SIR NICHOLAS BACON, LORD-KEEPER, TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.

My Moste Gracious Soveraigne,

I with all humblenes praye pardon of your maieftie, that I prefume by letter to do that which bounden duety and fervice requireth to be done in perfon. O good madam, not wante of a willing harte and mynde, but a vnhable and vnweldy body, is the onely caufe of this; and yet the body, fuch as it is, every day and hower, is, and ever fhalbe, redy at your maiefties commandement, and fo shoulde they be, yf I had a thowfand as good as any man hath, my allegeaunce and a number of benefitts hath fo foundery tymes bounde me.

The causes that make me nowe to write to your maiestie be the dangeronse and perilous tymes that hath continuewed longe, and do nowe, in my judgement, daylie greately encrease; for as the two mightie and potent princes, your neighbours, and furely your inwarde enemyes, were the

This letter, from the father of Lord Bacon to Queen Elizabeth, has been preserved by Sir James Balfour, and was probably written not long previous to the death of Sir Nicholas, perbaps in the September preceding. It is a singularly curious and valuable historical document.

leffe to be doubted as longe as they had their handis full at home, fo doubteles they prevaile againste those that kepte them occupied, which, as I vnderstand, they greately do, the perillis and dangers to your maiesties state hasten and growe on as greatly. Their willis are redy, onely their lettis differreth their oportunytie. Nowe, those being taken awaye, with what coniunct force and fury they will execute their will, full of enmytie and revenge, is easy to be iudged: for seing your maiestie bath had evidente prousse of their ill disposiciouns towardis you by their practises, and that in waightie matters, in the mydest of their troubles, when they were not able to do you any hurte, what then is to be loked for when oportunytie and habilitie shall concurre? Agayne, it is to be doubted that when they shall begynne to stirre coles, that there be many, booth at home and abroade, that will put oyle to this syer, and the rather because of the gloriouse and plausible pretecte that they pretende to have, to serve their purpose.

Moste gracious Soueraigne, I have been so vnquieted with those thingis, when I entered into the consideracion of them, whether of ower muche searefulnes by nature, or ouer greate ieolosy of your highe estate, I knowe not, that I coulde not chose but nowe at the laste, to vtter to your maiestie that which I have ofte intended, and yet neuer done, partely by seare, partely by hope, that thingis shoulde prove better, which I see daylie prove worse and worse; and yf remedy be not foreseen in tyme, I doubte it will prove very harde to be holpen by any counsell: to myne vnderstanding, and the beste remedy that I can thinke of, be theis, nevertheles submytting them with all humblenes to your maiesties moste grave and wise consideracioun.

The firste remedy is to make Scotland as affured to your maiestie as maye be, for so befydis the ayde you maye have by them, the greate perill of annoyaunce by Fraunce wilbe remoued; and the better to vnderstand what is beste to be foreseen and provided for both their and your fuertie, me thinketh it best that some wise men were sente to conferre with the Regent and his adherentis, by your maiestie, and that such a counsell shalbe agreed upon in that conference be sente to your highnest to be considered of, and by you allowed or amended. Ther resteth nothing

but to have it carefully executed; and in the handling of this, greate care woulde be taken that the younge king, who groweth nowe to yeres, be not transported, but maye remayne in the governaunce of fuche, as shalbe moste assured to your maiestie; and for the better bringing this to passe. I moste humblie beseche your highnes, that suche and so many pentions maye be graunted, as maye beste bring it to good essecte. Surely I thinke that euery thousand poundis that shalbe thus bestowed will save you a hundred thousand; yet it maye be doubted, whether, yf this be vidone, any money wilbe able to beare of the danger.

As to the feconde remedy, becaufe the annoyaunce from Spayne is like to growe by the Lowe Countries, I fee no waye fo fure for your maieftie as to kepe the Prince of Orenge in harte and life; for methinketh his eftate towardis Spayne, and the Regentis towardis Fraunce, ftand both in one predycament, and therefore require booth one cowrfe. The Statis of the Lowe Countries are fo divided, that howe trufte may be repofed in them where one trufteth not another, I fee not. marry, yf it mighte be broughte to paffe, by counfaile from hence, that the Duke of Arefcott and the States mighte governe the Countries according to their liberties, and the Prince to have the rule of their martiall matters, this of alle others were the fureft waye; otherwife, whileft the States be in delyberacion, it maye be doubted that their overthrowe maye happen.

The thirde remedie is to have your mufters kepte and contynewed, and their certificatis carefully pervfed and wantis fupplied, fo as your captaynes, men, municioun, and armour, maye be in a redynes againste all fouldiouris and fo[reigners?]

Thus, I have troubled your maieftie, I confesse, longer then perchaunce it nedeth, confidering cheefely your owne vnderstanding and wisedome, and therewith the grave, wife, and carefull counsaylouris daylie attendaunte abowte you. But, good madam, howe can their thingis dischardge me of my duetye, judging of their tymes as I do? And although I have before this tyme fignified to some of my Lords, what I have thoughte in your matters of state, yet seing nowe the daunger encreasing, I coulde not fatissie my oune harte withoute an advertisement to your selfe, moste humbly prayeing pardon for the lengthe of my letter, my shaking hande being

fo ill; and the rather because I meane not to trouble your maiestie ofte withoute your maiesties licence and good favour. Thus wishing to your highnes all felicitie both of mynde and body, I forbeare any farther to trouble your maiestie at this tyme. From Gorehambury, the xvth of September.

Your Maiesties moste humble subjecte and fervaunte,

NICHOLAS BACON.*

To the Queenis moste excellent Maiestie, my moste gracious Soveraigne.

> II.—MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ESCOSSE,† Oct. 6, 1588.

SIRE,

Dautant que voître maieste sera assez informee, tant par ce porteur, comme par ce que messieurs les Estats de ces pays luy escriuent, de ce qui concerne le batteau appelle le Phenix et les prisonniers dedans icelluy, ie me remetteray a la relation du dict porteur et du contenu des dictes lectres. Priant a vostre maieste treshumblement de vouloir croire que non seullement en ce qui peult toucher ledict affaire, mais en toutes aultres occurrences ou il plaira a vostre maieste m'honnorer de ses com-

[•] Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord-Keeper of the Great Seal. He was descended of an ancient family in Suffolk, and born about the year 1510. He was a zealous Protestant, and extremely jealous of the succession of the Queen of Scots. Suspected of being concerned in a tract, ostensibly written by Mr John Hales, Clerk of the Hanaper, in support of the title of the House of Suffolk to the English throne, he fell under the displeasure of Queen Elizabeth, who, in November 1564, restrained him from access to court, and intermeddling in any other business than that of chancery. He was preserved in his post of Lord-Keeper by the interest of Secretary Cecil, and retained that office till his demise, at his house near Charing-Cross, called York Place, on the 20th of February 1578-9. He was interred on the 9th day of March following, in the cathedral of St Paul's, where a monument was erected for him, which was destroyed by the fire of London in September 1666.

[†] Balcarras Papers.

mandemens, je ne fauldray de m'employer, felon mon petit pouuoir et credit que je puis auoir en ces pays. Et fur ce, aprez avoir baife les mains treshumblement a vostre maieste je prieray Dieu le maintenir,

Sire, en fa fainte garde et protection. De la Haye, ce vj Octobre 1588.

De vostre Maieste tres humble feruiteur,

MAURICE DE NASSAU.*

Au Roy d'Efcoffe.

Indorfed:
"6 Octob. 1588. Duik Moreis to
the King of Scotland."

III.—JACQUES VI. A MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU.

Sept. 19, 1592.

MONSIEUR MON COUSIN,

Ce gentilhomme porteur de cettecy,† estant des sa ieunesse nourry en ma compaignie, a maintenant resolu voir le monde, et se rendre plus

• He was usually termed Count of Nassau, until, by the death of his elder brother, Philip William, he became Prince of Orange. He was one of the greatest men of his age, whether considered as a warrior or a statesman. The chief blot upon his character was his ungrateful and cruel treatment of John of Oldenbarneveldt, whose inflexible honesty, and love of his country, formed a formidable obstacle to the Prince's ambitious views. Barneveldt was a patriot in the proper sense of the word, and unlike many persons pretending to the appellation in modern times, was ready to sacrifice every private advantage for the public good. This illustrious man fell a victim to his virtues, and suffered death at an advanced age. He was condemned 12th May 1619, and executed in the court of the castle at the Hague, where the scaffold was raised opposite the window of the Prince, who "beheld this execution from his window by the help of a prospective; upon which some people made their reflections."—Lives of the Princes of Orange, translated from the French of Baron Maurier, by Mr Thomas Brown. London, 1693. 8vo. p. 170.

† This was probably "Jacobus Balfourius a Pitcullo, liber Baro, Cubicularius noster intimus, et a prima adolescentia, apud nos educatus, nationes exteras inuisere constituens," &c. and who is so described by James VI. in a Latin letter addressed to Philip 11. (but apparently never delivered), dated at the palace of Dalkeith, in the month of September 1592. As the descriptions of Balfour.

capable a me faire feruice digne de fon rang. Son intention donques honneste et louable merite que ie le recommende a bon escient a mes plus affectionés amis, tant pour les vertus que ie cognois en luy, que pour son fidelle feruice qu'il ma fait, estant gentilhomme de ma chambre. Je vous prie partant le vouloir fauorir de vostre courtoisie, pour l'amour de moy, si dauanture il ait occasion de faire seiour es Prouinces Vnies, ou, bien sil ait a passer par vos quartieres. Vous asseurant que vous my faires plaisir, dont ie men reuencheray a lendroit de ceux quil vous plaira me recommender. Et en cest endroit ie prieray l'Eternel,

Monfieur mon coufin, quil vous ait toufiours en fa faincte et digne garde. De mon Chafteau de Dalketh, ce 19 de Septembre 1592.

Vostre bien affectionné Coufin,

JAQUES R.

A Monfieur mon Coufin, Monfieur le Conte de Naffau, Grand Admiral de Prouinces Unies.*

IV.—KING JAMES VI. TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.
April 13, 1594.

RIGHT HEIGH, RIGHT EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRINCESSE,

Or darrest fister and couslin, In our maist heartie maner, we recomend vs vnto you, having so guid occasion offred of employment of

and the causes of his visiting foreign parts, so completely agree in both letters—as the period is the same, and as they are both dated from the same place, it is not improbable that the Baron of Pitcullo was the individual introduced to the notice of Prince Maurice. This person afterwards became an Irish Peer by the title of Lord Balfour of Clonawley in the county of Fermanagh, and if we may credit Spottiswood, Bishop of Clogher, in after life, sorely belied the character given him by his royal master. See "Briefe Memorial of the Lyfe and Death of Doctor James Spottiswood," from a MS. in the Auchinleck Library. Edinburgh, 1811. 4to.

[·] Balcarras Papers.

fome from vs to deliuer unto you a defyre quhilk ue dout not fal be to your goude lyking and contentment, ue have made choyfe of our truftie and veilbelouitis James Coluill of Eafter Vymes,* and Mr Eduard Bruce, Commendator of Kinloffe, + amplie instructed lykuayes in all fuch maters, as ue have thought convenient be them to communicat to you, quhilk tuoching ws fo neir in our honor and vther wayes, ue looke affuredlie that deue refpect and confideration being had, we fall at lenth receaue fuch full fatiffactioun as in refloun we may reft contented; having thervithall given them in charge, to affure you of the performance of fuch poynts as ues delt in be the Lord Zouche, your lait Embafadour vith us, according to our ansuers returned be him; fo the particulars remitted to ther faithfull deliuerie, quhome it may pleis you crydit firmlie as our felve. Efter our most earnist viss of God for the continuance of your lang and prosperous range, we leave you, right heicht, right excellent and mightie Princesse, to his blessed and holy protectioun. Edinbrugh, the xiii of Aprile 1594.†

JAMES R.

V .- KING JAMES VI. TO THE EARL OF ESSEX.

RICHT TRUSTIE AND WELLBELOUIT COUSIN,

Allthoch I have this long tyme forborne the vretting unto you, because of the urong ye receauid their throuch, suppose not in my default, but in the default of thaime that uaire emploied betuixt us, yett nou, having directit thir tuo gentelmen, ambassadouris to the Quene youre source four and urgent occasions, importing no leffe

^{*} Sir James Colville of Easter Wemys was created Lord Colville of Culross, 25th April 1604.

[†] Afterwards created Lord Kinloss. He died in 1610, aged 62.

[‡] Balfour MSS.

[§] James Colville of Easter Wemys and Edward Bruce.

then the preferuation or breake of the amitie fo long and happilie contineuid betuixt the tuo crounis, I uolde not omitt this occasion in fending these few lynis unto you, heirby to praye you sauourablie to heare, and according to the freindshipp I looke for at youre hande, to further thame als farr as in you lyis to a goode and speedie dispatche. I looke, milorde, that a nobleman of the ranke ye are of, uill moue and affist the Quene vith youre good aduyce, not to suffer herself to be syled and abused any longer with suche as præferre thair particulaire and unhonest affections to the Quenis princelie honoure and peax of both the realmes; but I referr the particulairs of all to the beararis report, quhome I haue comandit to use youre aduyce in all thaire proceedings: And thus, richt trustie and uellbelouit cousin, I bidd you hairtelie fairuell. From Edinburgh the xiij of Apryle 1594.

Youre uerie louing freinde,

JAMES R.*

To our richt truftye and well belouit Coufin, the Earle of Effex.

VI.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO JAMES VI. February 4, 1596.

Plese 30UR Maiesti,

I cam to this toun of Venice the xiii of Deffember, ftillo novo, quhar, aftir fom few dayis, I had the neius of the hell hes bein on the

^{*} From his Majesty's Autograph. Balfour MSS. In Birch's Memoirs of Queen Elizabeth, this letter has been printed "from a copy among the MS. Collections of Dr Patrick Forbes, in the possession of the Honourable Philip Yorke, Esq.;" and it is observed, "what answer the earl return'd to the king does not appear." It would rather seem never to have been delivered, but to have been brought back by the ambassadors, which may account for the original being found amongst the Balfour MSS. Sir James has written upon a copy which he had made of it, "This letter, befor it wes deliuerit to the Earle of Essex he wes execut, and so it wes never deliuerit." A most absurd reason for its non-delivery, as Essex did not suffer till the 25th February 1601.

counfall of ten thir thri zeirs bygen, and caust my brother be him felf fpeik tham all feverally, as having vord from ane Skots gentilman: Bot to be fehort in this, fir, thair vald nain of tham do fo meikill as fpeir his nem, and denyit the knawlage of any mairi [mair?]: he lernit that thair vas ane deid and ane other remaining imbaftor at Roim, that had fom faffons vith ftrangers. Sva, finding that the Devk of Venice at that tyme* is nov deid; and as I troy the other fennatour gif any vas (3a, albeit he var leifing, thay of ten ar fchengeitt everi fax monethe) fva I focht guher I micht quyatly be aquent vith the principall fecritter, quhilk vithe dificolti I obtained, in respect thay remaine in office all thair lyf, and is not thair fassion to speik vith any bot poblikly; 3it he did so meikill, as I vas brocht in be ane quyat passage, quhair the Dewk vas vithe the nomber of Saxtein, to vit the Ten and Sax is callid propirlie the heids of the reft; and becaus I vas to begin of nev, and had nothing to sheav, bot zour maiesties instroctions quhilk I vald not, I thought gud to fill ane of the blanks 30ur maiestie sent vith me, vithe som gennerall vords of ofice to the Deuk and Sennat vithe credit be zour hines onto my felf: I and my brother being cecritters, alvay it pleift them verrie veill, and vald hav honorrit me for your maiesties saik as ane imbastour, bot I sheu tham I vas not, bot for fecrit handling of your maiefties affairs, vas com to maik my errand for lerning of the langage and other verteys, as the faffon of ftraingers vas: alway they left not of in gret revarrenceing zour maiestie; bot quhan I begane and tald them quhow that ane zong Skots gentillman called Balendin brocht fik a meffege onto 50ur maieftie, and fva forthe as zour hines direckit me, the Devk and all the counfall mifkenid it clein, and villit me to fpeik quhat els, bot I held me fva lang at this point as reflon and difcreffion vald. At laft I faid in 3our maiefties nem, I vas to gif anfuair to thair first proposicion, quhilk vas zour hines thankitt tham of thair gudvill, and cowld be content to be in frainchap vith tham. The Devk anfvarrit and faid it vas verri veill, bot vald I fay any

The Doge Pascal Cicogna. He died in 1595, and was succeeded by Marino Grimani, who enjoyed the Ducal honours till his decease, 26th December 1605. His successor was Leonardo Donato.

forder? The quhilk I thocht not gud to do till I had ansvare in that, and deffyritt of the Deuk and Counfall to haw itt: Being convoyit veri quyatly avay, I vas fend for againe vithin ten dayis, quhar, being com, the Devk faife, that for any air thay var meft villing to be in freinfchap vith zour maiestie, and 3it focht giff I vald fay any mair? Nov, I had lerned befor that it vas not meiteft to fpeik derekly of the Kyng of Spain, bot I faid inkece zour maiestie var troblit in zour avin contra, or after the Quein of Inglands diffece, be any domestik or forrene nacion in feiking of zour richt, quhat vald be thair pairt, and quhow vald thay think of it? The Devks anfvar vas, that thay fould advyffe and gif ane fik anfvair as God moift tham vithe all. Ovpon the morren I vas deffvrit again, and cavft fit down amongs tham quhither I vald or not, and put on my hat. Dewk begovd and faid, ve hav advyft to gif zour King ane anfvair, quhilk ve beleife fall content him, and that 3e may remember the bettir on it, 3e fall heir it red, ains, tvys, or thryfe, quhilk vas doin. Aftir the Devk faid, ve ar veri veill content of zour fecritt form vith ovffe, and vill deffyr zou fet down the fobftance of this vret onto his hines zour maiftir, and quhat forder, he vill bid zou fay in his maiesties nem, now or heiraftir, it fall be meft luifingly harde and anfvarrit. Thir fpeichis var delyverrit vithe ane veri gracioufe countinance; zit, I thocht ains to hav faid that all vas veill genarral I hard; bot, fir, vith your maiefties pardoun, I fand it meiter to vret thir lynis to be advyflit vithall, and to fend the verrie vords, fo neir as I can, that vas red onto me, faiue only ane thay fet doun to my advantage, quhilk I think fchem to let be fein, fence all the praife, honour, and veilfair, belongithe to zour maieftie, quha never derekit me zit, I thank God and zour hines, bot zour graces errands zeid refionable veill, as I houp this fall. Sua, fir, the tyme being propir in respect of the Kyng of Spains interpryse apeirandli again lngland, gif 30ur maiestie pleife, 3e may taik onto 30v fik feu nomber of 30ur counfall as 3e think gud, and refolffe quhat fardar 3our maieftie vill deill vith this meft vyffe and luifing Repoblik, for quhat zour hines vill feik of tham vith resson, I beleife to obtein it onto your maiestie, letting me be authorreift be zour maiefties lettirs to the Devk and Sennat all in ane,

and fom blanks vith 3our maiefties gret fignet and court fignet, to cloffe them and fill tham as I find occasion.*

Now, fir, being quhar papiftri is, I can not vant fom of the dreggis. Zour maiestic hes hard guhat the freirs dois, guhan thay hav pritcht all the day; bot in gud faithe, fir, I fould never maik this preitching for my felf, gif I could othervaife do. I brocht not faife hundrithe kroons vith me, and my brother baithe, ovt of Londen, as nain knovs bettir nor 50ur maiesties trew poir fervant, Thomas Fovles: and, fir, my staying still in Venice on this errand this tva monethe hes bein no fmall maittir onto my posse; bot, fir, I haiv caws to think it mair nor veill bestowit for many reffons, and I hoip in God to do 3our maiestie gud and fecrit fervice heir; only the dispatche your hines fends, baithe for your ferveice and my help, let it be foine and fecritt; for I beleife, and can lerin heir nothing els, but that the Spainzairds falbe in Ingland, or els ewill douing, be the tym I dow heir from 30ur maiestie. But albeit, spair not to fend me vord, for I beleife to do 3our hines lytill var fervice gif thay var landit in Ingland, nor quhar thay ar pressently. This stet luifs tham not, and sua prepairs be fi, inkece thay mein for them, albeit in the mein tyme thay ar in fair terms. If it may pleife 3our hines to communicat of this onto Thomas Fovls, I, vithe 5our majesties lyssance, vill ansvair for his secress; and he is verie meit to delyver my lettirs onto zour hines from tym to tym, and vithe ane vord of your hines (be him to James Hudfon) my hell lettirs vill com and gang verie faife. Bifiking 3our hines to pardon my baldnes and roid form in vretting fva langfomly, quhilk I vas conftranit to do, that 5our hines micht heire my hell procidings, as I vald to God 5our maiestie knew my hairt, and vithe quhat desiyr I do 3our service, and

[•] These negotiations with the Venetians are amusing enough. James seems to have taken every opportunity of endeavouring to get his right of succession to the crown of England recognised abroad, and so far as promises went, he seems to have been not very scrupulous. It was this laxity of principle, and his dealing with Catholic princes, that gave rise to the belief of his inclination to Popery. James was too fond of exclusive power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope. Episcopacy suited him much better where he was head of the church himself. In viewing his political arrangements generally, it is almost impossible not to agree with Lord Hailes, that whatever may have been "his character as a man, or his conduct as a monarch," his "judgment was sound, and his apprehension clear," especially where his own interests were concerned.

feiks the inkrefment of 30ur maiefties grettnes, that ane day I affur my felf to fi; onto the quhilk and ever, I pray God to blife 30ur hines and all 30ur proceidings. From Venice, the fourt of Fabrowair, ftilo novo, 1596.

Your Maiesties faithfull, humble, and most obedient fervand,

Sr. W. KEITHE.*

The gret gudvill and fauorable intencion that the kyngs maieftie of Skotland hes participattit vithe ovste be 30ur mediacioun.

The anfvair quharof. It falbe onto ovffe most design and villing all the gud lovks of his maiestie inkressing in greenes. And we fall not fell in ovr pairts for to schav all favorable correspondence, as his maiestie fall find in freindschap and amittie to his hines being so weill lykitt of be ovsfe, according to the institutioun and form of this our Repoblik.

Sir, this is the verri fobstance of that vas red onto me, albeit it vas amplifeit vithe many courtas vords in the Ittalliane, quhilk is not thair fasson to gif copis of, nather hav thay any vret of me.†

To his Maiesti of Skotland.

[•] Sir William Keith of Ludqulairn, son of Gilbert Keith, by Margaret, daughter of James Gordon of Lesmoir. He was knighted by James VI., and married Margaret, daughter of William Lord Keith, and sister of George fifth Earl Marischal, by whom he had a son, William, who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I., by patent to him and his heirs-male whatsoever, dated 28th July 1629.

[†] Balcarras Papers.

VII.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO THOMAS FOULIS. 15TH AUGUST [1596]?

MOST LUIFFING AND ASSURRED FREIND,

I can not bot marwall, 3e haue newer wrettin bot ane lettir, fence I fende 30w myn, to be preffentit till owr deireft freind, quha I am foir hes not bein the cawffe off fwa lang ftay, the porpoffe importting fo meikill onto him, for tym is all in fik mairtchandeis, and may affur zow within thir twa monethes, 3e micht haue had fik ane blok as nein of any nation cowld hav the lyk off, mairtchands I mein, bot now the Inglife treid is fo thocht off, as thair is no other talk bot off that, zet mair nor the Spainis. I am adwarteift be Jams Hudfon to be war in my wairs bying, in refpect thair is fo many Inglife fchaipis at fe; bot he wretts fo obskoirlie, that it may be taikin twa wayis, and that he or any leiffing, bot zour ffreind and zowr felff, can ken off my mairtchandeis be my falt, it is nocht: zit wretts he mair that thair is fom lettir interfeptit, wrettin be Scotts Jeffowitts, guharin my nem is mencionid, howping to work wonders at my poir hands, bot wretts not quhar the Jeffowitts ar, nor wha interfeptts the lettir; bot, as I taik it, Ingland, qulia I am affurit has bein ewer bettir informit off me, nor that I will have cheng in my releigion, and any thinge els bot my prievat excerfeiffes I mell not into, and for 30wr bloks and freinds off yeir maittirs I howp not to be meikill invoyitt, and gif I wis any did, I fowld do mair nor I hawe doin, 3it flaying owpon zowr adwarteisment. Ze wret newer ane word news onto me, nor quhow our Sweithland maistir is, 3it I haue bein demandit heir quhat news I haid from Scotland, and guhan I heird from it? Confider ze thein giff I haw cawffe to find falt with zour flewthful onkyndnes. Farder, fom of my aquentance speirrit giff his maiestie of Scotland heid fend any men and fchaipis with this fleit off Ingland agains Spaine? I faid I beleift nocht, nor wald nocht, onles the kyng off Spaine parfewid Ingland, at quhilk tym thay heir micht parfchance knaw, that owr maiftir's forfe was mair nor fom giffs owt. Thir ar ane wyfe peipill, and wil be leithe the kyng off Spaine

taiks thaim for enemies; and thinks tham fober freinds that diflyks tham, fwa 3it quhat they ar and quhom thay luiff is knawin albeit nocht to many, and in fik fort as thay may deny it quhan thay will. Leiffing this porpofe, that I wat not guhow I begane it, faue in finding fat with 30wr onkyndnes, I man tell zow, that I am indet for zowr wairs ane thowfand crowns, and hes newer first nor last had ane pennie from zow nor zowr freinds, quhom I wreit not, feing I med the blok with 30w: mend this falt with fpeid, for 3e know what it is for ane 3ung mairtchand to tyn his credit at fourst. And 3it I have doin for ane moneth in to com, and affurs my felf the forfaid fom is be the way, knawing the honest mynd off 30wr freind, I will not fay 30wrfelf: bot this far, giff 3e twa do this 30ur dewty to me, for all is wrettin onto me, or can be doin in my contrair, I fall put faire wairs in zowr hands and zowr freind's, with God's graic. I fay this, wind and wader ferwing that all be not loft be the way or flewthe of tyme. The haue doin me ane ewill torrin, hes haldin me fwa lang from feing the rest off this gairding off the wordle; and langer nor the end of September I cannot ftay: and giff word possiblei coms not from 30w or them, I fall tak fik order with 3our torns and my credit as I may, till my bak coming, quhilk, God willing, fall not be lang, gif the Pep maik me not cardinell, for my deep dewocion and fervic. Parhapis the Jeffwitts howpis to moife me and him; thus thinking this fowficiant for ane man of 30wr fpreit, I praye 30w commend my feirveice to tham I awcht, and to others as 3e think gud; bot let als few weit off my wretting onto 30w, as 3e can intessipet. I am fweir to offir my fair hand wret to ewerrie ane, and my flowdis dyttment quhilk I recomend beithe ane and other as aratiks. Gif it pleis God we meit, I fall gar 30w trow of the quhilk, God I pray preferve 30w. From Padoua, the 15th of Agowst stilo novo.

Jowr meft conftand and afurid freind to be employit,

SR. W. KEITHE.*

I pray 50w, taik gud tent that this 50wr lettir be not openit be the way.

To my worthie luiffing freind Thomas Fowlls, borgefs in Edinburghe, and jewaller onto the King's Maiestie off Scotland.

[There was enclosed in this letter, on a flip of paper, the following additional communication to Mr Thomas Fowlis.]

Thair coms ane lettir amongs my other onto zowr brother, bot ken nothing to him new. Taik ane gud hairtt quhat ewer cawfe ze have, and I fall maik 30w help heir, gif his maiestie send me moyane to bye in tym, for that is all. And the King of Spains forces again Ingland, I feir, and ze heft nocht, foin falbe: bot I fall make his maiestie the gretter of it heir, for thay luif him not. I wald 3e fawe my letter wrettin onto his maiestie, and ye man fi it, for neist God and the king I thank 30w. Pance nocht on geir to do zow ewill, for ze knaw quhat cawfe I have, bot my cair is on God; cast 30w thair, and 50wr honest form fall ewer confort 30w. Heft word and my difcharge to me, bot I will not wret onto 30w in this other gret pakket, because thay ar beithe off ane dett, and this tikett I wrot that thir lettirs fall not beir bowk; 3e man be chamles at his maiesties hands for fikreise onto me; sence it is his weil mair nor myn in the end, and I may fay, I have doin his hines ferweifs, and my lying heir hes bein no fmall maittir onto me, and maiking moyan for this torrin. Fell not to fchew his maiestie that the Italliane he was so gud onto, at my deflyrs, is heir, and werrie gret with the gret Dewk of Florrence, and offers to cawfe the dewk fend for me. His majestie kens he is the Kyng of Spanis onfriend quyatlie, and luifs our kyng. Gif his hines will, I fall speik him, and giff him fom words of offere on my awin heid, bot not from his hines, till he fend me word in this; for in my oppinion his maiestie fall have neid off freinds and money both, or he get Ingland, and this dewk hes bethe, and is in lig with this repoblick, at left in gret amittie. I cloffe his maiefties lettir, fwa that giff he taik not ane knyff and cott it owt, it will ryff; likewais I have cloiffit it roidlei, that it be not brokin owt or kend, fua exquiffe my roidnes lowrd falt* in this, and rid this other fyd weil. I am affraid for James Hudfon, thairfor taik gud tent in the opining the lettirs.

VIII .- EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

IT MAY PLEASS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

That althocht it has pleafit God fa to difpoifs of my effaris, as that fince I professit the Catholik religioune, I haif remanit for the maist pairt in gryt tribles, bot maift fpeciallie thir thrie or four zeris last bygane, in extrem and daylie danger of my lyf, befyd all my vther irrecowerable loiffis: Zit being affuredly perfuadit in my felf, that zour maieftie hes fufficiently confiderit (and that according to the treuth, as God is my vitnefs), that thir my lait and gryttast extremeties haif procedit onlie vpon that ouer gryt feruor and onnecessar rigor of the ministrie (qua, difdainfullie rejecting all reafonable conditiouns, will force mennis confciencis, nocht as 3it perfuadit, till imbrace thair opiniouns in matteris of religioune), and nocht of any intentioune in me till offend against 30ur hienefs perfoune or eftait. I am, thairfoir, the mair bauld heirby till regrait and lament my hard eftait, as I haif euer doone be fic midfes as I mycht vntoe zour maiestie, quhairin as it pleafours God till permit my fortoune daylie till becum mair frauart, fa I hoip to find 3our hienefs the mair gratious and freindlie. My hardeft hap and gryttest greif, as God knauis, hes euer bein that being debarrit of 30ur maiesties presence, till maik my awin pairt guid and knawin to zour hienes, all my fincer and vprycht intentiouns haif bein finistrouslie exponit and forcit till actiouns for defence of my awin lyf and eftait, in opin shame on my pairt, offensiu to zour maiestie, God being my judg, and my conscience bering me record, that it neuer enterit in my mynd, famekle as to be of thocht, willinglie till offend 3our hienefs; and I hop my behauiour in this, my hard

^{*} Awkward or clumsy mistake. O. Fr. lourde faute.

banishment, quhairof 50ur maieste cannot be ignorant, hes giuin sufficient testimonie of my deutifull and fincer affectioune to zour hieness feruice, as he, guha, as he hes the honor to be fa neir of your maiesties blood, fa his gryttest defyr and contentment hes bein, and is, to spend his lyf for your hienefs, and the preferuationne of his auin native cuntrie, without regaird of perfouns or perrell quhatfumeuer, my deutie to God in my confcience onlie referuit; vther nor quhilk, zour maiestie felf and all Scotland knawis, I neuer did craif. And albeit my prefent miffortoune fall, I dout nocht, gif gryt contentment and mair pouar to my ondeferuit enemies till feik my ytter rwin, zit my refolutioune till returne in Scotland, being for the ernest defyr I haid (and that nocht without guid grund) to doe zour maiestie feruice, as the end fall pruif in effect, I hop my attempt in that falbe the lefs offenfiue to zour hinefs, althocht I haif nocht as zit that I knau of, obtenit zour maiesties licence for my warrand; and thairfoir, that I mycht returne the mair quietlie, and with lefs fuspitioune, I interprysit this way, of mynd till haif passit be Holland, bot befoir I could cum thair, being trappit be mair diligent ferce nor I luikit for, I wes brocht heir, and at last, being tryit quha I ues, am nou detenit till zour maiestie be aduertissit and resolue hou to disposs of me :* Quhairin I befeik zour hinefs to taik fic order, as may best aggrie with 30ur maiesties awin honor and my feurtie, vntil the tym I be brocht to quhat pairt of Scotland fall lyk zour hienefs, quhair quhenfoeuer it may pleafe God I arryue, I am nocht to plead with 50ur maiestie for my just defence (albeit I lak nocht guid argument), bot onlie till feu to zour hienefs clemencie and fauor, for my faif-gaird against the violence and malice of my enemies, being maift affurit that bayth natur be blood, and princelie courag, fall taik mair place, and voork gryttar effectis in zour hienefs hert, for my feurtie and preferuatione, quhilk in end will zeild zour maiestie gryttar honor and contentment, nor the satisfactioune of my

[•] Lord Errol and the other Popish peers, Angus and Huntly, not finding themselves comfortable in foreign parts, resolved to return to Scotland, and used all means to reconcile themselves to the King and the Church. Errol, while passing through the Low Countries, was intercepted and delivered into the hands of Mr Robert Danielston, Conservator at Campvere. This letter appears to have been written to the King in consequence of this seizure. The Earl contrived, however, to escape, and shortly thereafter arrived safely in Scotland.

enemies, be my vrak (quha am alredie fa far vrakit) can breid 50ur hienefs commoditie or pleafeur, speciallie being to 30ur maiestie that I am.

Nather fall I euer craif at God or 3 our hieness gryttar graice or fauor in this uarld, nor I carie and euer did a faythfull hert to 3 our maiesties feruice, and a feruent defyr to spend my lyf for the same, quhersoeuer guid occasioune haid bein or may be offerit. And thairwith cessing to virie 3 our hieness uith farthar purposs heirin, bot committing my self and the cair of my hale estait to God and 3 our maiesties guid consideratioune, and langing till haif the honor to sie 3 our hieness self, housoeuer matteris succeid thairester, in maist humillie kissing 3 our maiesties handis, and beseking God till grant 3 our hieness als guid success in all 3 our guid and uerteouss desyris, as I wishe, I taik leis. Middlebruche, the first day of Julij 1596.

Jour Maiesties euer maist faythfull, luiffing, and obedient subiect and servitur, to his last breath.

ERROLL.*

IX.—JACOBUS SEXTUS, MAGNIFICIS ET NOBILIBUS ZELANDLÆ ORDINIBUS.

1596.

Jacobus Dei gratia Rex Scotorum magnificis et nobilibus Zelandiæ ordinibus compatribus fuis amicifiimis, falutem et perpetuum felicitatis incrementum.

Nobiles et magnifici domini, amici et compatres nobis fincere dilecti, cum ex vestris literis intellexerimus, Franciscum quondam Arroliæ comitem, unum ex perduellium nostrorum numero, cum claudestinum in regnum nostrum reditum pararet, imperio vestro captum ac detentum esse, ac Roberto Danielstoun priuilegiorum nostrorum conferuatori in custodiam datum, donec de animi nostri voluntate certiora afferri pos-

fent, in toto hoc negotio conftantem vestræ erga nos (ut compatres amiciflimos decet), beneuolentiæ tenorem manifestissime perspeximus, magnoque nostro et regni nostri commodo id confilii a vobis captum esse ingenuo profitemur, illius enim ceterorumque proferiptorum inopinatus in patriam reditus, periculofum aliquem tumultum excitare potuiffet. Quocirca maximas vestris magciis et meritas gratias habemus, relaturi cum amiciffime nostræ erga vos voluntatis testandæ, par se occasio obtulerit, quod certiffime a nobis expectetis, atque etiam ut pro veftro amicitiæ jure cum oportunum fuerit, flagitetis, etiam atque etiam rogamus. Quid autem de Francisco illo proscripto confilii ceperimus, id vobis impartiri voluimus, eum feilicet nostrarum rerum statum este, vt quauis cautione adhibita, eum in patriam redire, nec religioni, nec nobis aut regno, nec vobis amicis nunc expediat. Idcirco eum in custodia detineri volumus, donec sponforibus hic præftitis caueat (multos enim et potentes affines et confanguineos habet) fe neque in regnum nostrum fine licentia et commeatu nostro, prius impetrato, rediturum, neque interea quicquam, quod vel religioni, vel communi nostro amicorumque et confederatorum nostrorum statui detrimento effe poffet, moliturum, præfertim autem nulla cum Hifpano confilia communicaturum, fub pœna magnæ fummæ pecuniariæ, aliifque pœnis quæ legibus nostris confentaneæ funt, qua fideiuffione hic prius præstita, tum eum dimitti volumus, vt vbilibet priuata fua negotia procuret, eo jure quo ante captiuitatem proximam potuerat: hoc vobis yt viris amiciffimis fignificandum duximus. Quæ porro ad hoc negotium pertinent Adriano Damman mageiis vestris per eum referenda exposuimus, qui fingulari fide, diligentia et integritate hic verfatus eft, adeo vt non minus quam nostratum aliquis nobis acceptus sit, ei vt commissa referenti fidem, aurefque benignas præbeatis, rogamus. Interea Deum optimum maximum precamur, vt vos et diutiflime incolumes et in florenti rerum ftatu conferuet.*

[Indorfed.]

Copie of the Kings letter to the effaits of Zeland, anent the taking of the Erle of Arrol. 1596.

^{*} Balcarras Papers.

X.—JACOBUS SEXTUS DILECTO FAMILIARI SUO GULIELMO KEITH.
Nov. 1596.

Jacobus Dei gratia Scotorum Rex dilecto familiari fuo Gulielmo Keyth hæc mandata, ferenissimo Venetiarum Duci ejusque potentissimæ ciuitatis fenatui prudentissimo exponenda, commissit.

Primum nemini mirum videri debere oftendes, quod nos confilia cum ea republica communicare, fœdufque et amicitiam inflituere cupimus, a qua longiflima terrarum et maris intercapedine diffiti, ne vel mercatorum quidem commercia habeamus: cum a formidabili Hifpaniarum regis vicinitate et potentia metus vtrique noftrum communis fit, periculum vero eorum reipublicæ inde imminens eos quidem tanquam eius regis regiis dominiifque vicinos, et olim bello ab eius maioribus vexatos, probe intelligere et fumma prudentia præuenturos confidimus.

Nobis vero quantum a tam potentis Regis vicinitate periculi immineat manifestum est, cum Angliam hæreditario jure post mortem serenissimæ Reginæ Elizabethæ nobis debitam, idem Rex vt a pontifice diris deuotam et prædæ expositam belli jure vindicare intendat: certum autem est, omnes Angliæ Reges armis et gloriæ deditos, Scotiæ quoque vt eiusdem insulæ partis exiguæ imperium affectauisse, quanto minus tam potens Rex qui simul semelque Galliam, Germaniam, Inferiorem Angliamque occupare nititur, nos vicinos patietur, ac non potius, vt Ferdinandus eius proauus Nauarrum regem iniuria maxima regna exturbauit, ita nos quoque pretextu aliquo (forte religionis, et a pontifice excommunicari et regno priuari procurabit) atque eo magis, quod ad Angliæ regnum indubitatum jus habeamus: cum certo sibi persuadere possit, saluis nobis nostraque stirpe, nunquam illi Angliæ possessimo quietam fore, quamuis eam vt spe jampridem deuorauit, ita re ipsa armis vique semel occupauisset.

Hoc quoque tibi oftendendum est, dictum Hispaniarum Regem primum

regnum noftrum inuadere decreuissie vt aditu facilius et exponendis copiis magis commodum, et ad comparandos commeatus, reficiendos milites, conducenda precipue leuioris arma curæ equitum auxilia, propter subditorum noftrorum factiones et de religione controuersias, denique ad totum bellum Anglicum propter vicinitatem valde opportunum.

Totamque huius belli feriem exulum noftrorum confilio compositam esse, idque ex literis ducis Sesse, qui legatus Romæ residet, ad suum Regem miss, et in itinere per Massiliensium triremes interceptis patere, quarum exemplum ad nos per Christianissimum Galliæ Regem transmissium, ad te missimus, dicto ferenissimo duci et senatui communicandum.

His accedit proferiptorum et exulum nostrorum comitum scilicet Huntleæ et Erroliæ in regnum nostrum sine nostra licentia reditus, vnde tumultus orientes vix compescere possumus, quod ab Hispano illis pecuniam administrari et auxilia militum breui secutura et Angliæ Regna et omnes fere subditi nostri certo sibi persuadeant, nam et ob consilia cum Hispano de regni nostri inuasione communicata a nobis abhinc triennium proferipti et arcibus euersis bonisque consiscatis e regno pulsi suerunt, vt eos et denuo consilia cum Hispano communicasse et eius ope fretos in regnum nuper rediisse verisimile sit.

Cum igitur a tam potente aduerfario periculum imminens habeamus, cum dicta potentifiima republica fœdus et amicitiam inire, fi ita fereniffimo duci et prudeutifiimo fenatui vifum fuerit, neceflarium putamus, quod vt enixe petas, tibi fpecialiter mandamus, poteftatemque noftram de ea re confultandi, tractandi, et concludendi commifimus, promittentes in verbo principis nos ratum gratumque habituros, quicquid ad dictum fœdus pertinens cum dicto fereniffimo duce et prudentiffimo fenatu concluferis. Ad milites vero conducendos, et bellum jam fere inceptum propulfandum [pecuniam mutuo accipere, et] amicorum præfidium implorare, et pecuniam mutuo accipere neceflarium duximus, et quamuis dictam potentiffimam rempublicam viciffim remunerari et eis neceflario aliquo tempore præfidium aliquod afferre in poteftate noftra fitum non videatur, hoc tamen fereniffimo duci et fenatui confiderandum expones præfentem illis vtilitatem ex regni noftri totiufque Britanniæ præferuatione fore,

quod futuræ alioqui tanti Regis potentiæ, qui proculdubio aliquando et illis quoque inimicus futurus eft, impedimentum aliquod afferetur.

Reputent qua fama et totius Europæ terras Caletum in adfpectu Britanniæ fitum hoc anno expugnauerit, et quanta moles eius magnitudini accederet, fi regnum noftrum vt nouum ad Angliam expugnandam aditum vicinis Europeis omnibus dormitantibus et de fuo periculo fecuris, occupare poffet.

Si autem (quod indubitatum nostrum jus nostris amicorumque viribus propugnandum promittit) Angliæ imperio potiri nobis aliquando (post mortem scilicet reginæ) contigerit, tum non solum ex mercaturæ commerciis magna dietæ reipublicæ vtilitas ex regno nostro accedet: sed etiam quamcunque nobis hoc tam necessario tempore, pecuniæ summam mutuo dederint, summa side persoluemus, et semper grato animo eius reipublicæ amorem et in nos beneuolentiam prosequemur.

Interea dictum fereniffimum ducem fenatumque orabis, vt fi quid in nobis est quod ad eorum reipublicæ decus honorem aut emolumentum facere potest, id totum a nobis expectent, gratissimumque nobis suturum judicabis, si pro amicitiæ jure id nobis signissicent, certo sibi spondentes nos illis amicissimos et ad omne amoris officium paratissimos futuros.*

XI.—JACOBUS DEI GRATIA REX SCOTORUM SERENISSIMO PRINCIPI VENETIARIUM DUCI SALUTEM.*

Mtsinus ad ciuitatem vestram, generosum Gulielmum Keyth, unum ex familiaribus nostris, vt ciuitati vestræ quædam nostro nomine exponeret. Illi vero ciuitatem vestram aures benignas præbuisse intelleximus, quo nomine summas ciuitati vestræ gratias habemus. Plura autem eidem mandata ciuitati vestræ communicanda dedimus. Quocirca ciuitatem vestram oramus, vt pro solita vestra humanitate, illi aures attentas præbere et eam sidem habere oramus velit, quam nobis ipsis, si præsentes essemus, habitura esset. Non dubitamus autem quin quod nobis vtile

[·] From the original drafts preserved amongst the Balcarras Papers.

eft, id quoque inclitæ veftræ Reipublicæ honori et emolumento cedet. Vale, fereniflime princeps, Deufque ciuitatem veftram quam diutiflime rebus fecundis affluentem conferuet. Datæ e Regia nostra Sancruciana, Novemb. 1596.

[Indorfed.]

Venice.

Inftructions to Sir William Keith.

XII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELDT AU ROY D'ECOSSE.
iiij Decembre 1596.*

SIRE,

Suiuant la permiffion de vostre maieste, j'ay prins la hardiesse d'escrire cestes, mesmement ayant icy entendu d'une grande armee, qui

Adrian Damman de Bystervelt was born in the neighbourhood of Ghent, and afterwards taught
Latin in that city. Amongst the Balcarras Papers (in which collection this letter and the succeeding one is preserved) there is a letter dated 3d January 1594, from the United States to James
VI. appointing Damman Resident at the Scotish Court. The following is an extract from it:—

" Nons ne doubtons aulcunement que vostre maieste ne soit fort bien asseurce du bon zele et singulière deuotion, qu'avons tousiours porté a lendroit d'Icelle, et le respect qu'auons eu a la grandeur et authorité de vostre maieste. Neanmoins pour en rendre plus ample tesmoignage et declaration, aussy pour auoir d'oreseuanant aulenne personne, par le moyen duquel les differens suruenans entre les subiects de vostre maieste, et les habitans de ces pays sur le faict de leurs commerces mutuelles, et train de marchandise puissent estre tant mieulx moyennez et assopiz, et toute ancienne amitie et bien vueillance reciproqueuse entretenne, ce que par lettres ne se pourroit faire si commodement, auons tronue non moins expedient que necessaire d'employer deners vostre maieste le Sr Adrian Damman, luy ayant en premier lien donné charge de baiser trèshumblement les mains de vostre maieste de nostre part, l'assurer du grand desir qu'anons de continuer en la denotion qu'anons tousiours porté a Icelle, et luy declarer sa dicte commission de resider avec la bonne grace, et plaisir de vostre maieste en sa Court et Royanme, comme nostre Agent general. A l'occasion de quoy supplions trèshumblement vostre maieste qu'il plaise a Icelle l'accepter pour tel, et le tenir en sa Royale protection, en luy donnant benigne audience et credence, toutes et quanteffois besoing sera de remonstrer quelque chose a vostre maieste de nostre part, nous asseurant que sa presence sera agreable à vostre maieste, et seruira pour continuer vostre Royale acconstumee benevolence, bonne volonté et affection vers nous laquelle desirons sur toute aultre chose."

Damman was a great favourite of the King's, and was for several years Professor of Humanity in the University of Edinburgh. He was sent in the year 1596 to the Low Countries, to obtain delife fait en Efpaigne, comme par aduertifiemens continuels on cognoit pardeça; et est l'opinion des gens plus aduifez, que celle foit, ou pour estre enuoyee en Irlande, ou en vostre Royaulme, ou celuy d'Angleterre, chose qui de pres touche vostre maieste. Je n'ay sceu doncques moins faire, comme tres assectionnè et tres obligè serviteur, que de l'aduertir de ce que dessus, car j'ay la memoire toute fresche de ce que vostre maieste mauoit commande de prier messeigneurs, mes maistres assin d'auoir par eux aduertances quand juste occasion se presenteroit.

Et sitost que j'estoye arriue en Zelande, j'ay receu lettres de mesdicts seigneurs par lequelles j'ay este commandè de rapporter a vostre maieste

ce que je viens de dire.

Auffi mefdicts feigneurs m'ont aduerty de ce que leurs feigneuries ont traicte auec le Roy de France, et la Royne d'Angleterre, y estant invitez par lesdictes maiestes dont de brief ils donneront plaindre cognoisfance de ledict part a vostre maieste. Or comme il a pleu a vostre Royale douceur de me dire sa benigne volonte, touchant ce que vostre maieste non seulement desire y se joindre, ains comme messdicts seigneurs m'escriuent auoir tresbonne memoire de ce que vostre maieste leur a fait remonstrer, par ses ambassadeurs expres, auoir este le premier qui trouuoit vn tel traité, et expedient tres necessaire à la consideration de la Religion Chrestienne, et pour l'estat des princes et seigneurs, en faisans profession au rang desquels messdicts seigneurs treuuent vostre maieste pour des plus signales et donnes en nostre temps pour nourisseurs à son Eglise, par la grace de Dieu.

very of the Earl of Errol, who, as before mentioned, had been arrested there. Besides the original MS, of the Bartasias corrected throughout in his own hand, there are the following printed works by him in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates:—

I. Schediasmata Hadriani Dammani, a Bisterveld Gandavensis. 1. De nuptiis serenissimi potentissimique Scotorum regis Jacobi VI. et serenissime virginis Annæ, Frederici II. Daniæ, Norvegiæ, etc. Regis, filiæ. 2. De tempestate quæ sponsam Regiam navigantem repulit. 3. In Atheos elegia. 4. In Regis navigationem Danicam emblema. 5. De Coronatione Reginæ Scotorum Annæ. 6. De introitu ejus in primariam Regni Vrbem Edinburgum. Edinburgi, excudebat Ro-

bertus Walde-graue, An. Dom. 1590. Cum privilegio Regali. 4to.

II. Hadriani Dammanis a Bysterveldt, D. N. de Fairbill, Bartasias; qui de mundi creatione libri septem; e Gulielmi Salvsti D. N. de Bartas septimana Poemate Francico liberius tralati et multis in locis acuti. Edinburgi, excudebat Robertus Walde-graue, Typographus Regis, Anno Dom. 1600. Cum privilegio Regio.

Je ne failly de desclairer ladicte vostre volonte, a messegneurs les estats de Zelande auec les circonstances que vostre maieste me dit alors, et (comme jugent leurs seigneuries) auec grande raison, ains eux n'en peuuent; mais, voires, en sont scandalizes, comme je remonstreray a vostre maieste estant de retour pardela.

Ne fauldray cependant, de fere entendre ladicte benigne volonte vostre de ce que dessus, à messeigneurs les estats generaulx arriuant auecques la grace de Dieu en Hollande de brief, lequel je prie,

Sire,

Auoir vostre Maieste en sa diuine protection.

De Middlebourg en Zelande ce iiije de Decembre 1596, Stilo veteri.

De vostre Maieste le treshumble et tresaffectione seruiteur,

ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERUELT.

XIII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELT AU ROY D'ESCOSSE. x Decembre 1596.

SIRE,

Estant jey arriue en Hollande, n'ay rien eu plus cher que de faire les commandemens de vostre maieste, et jeux entendus, Messeigneurs les estats generaulx ont tresaffectueusement vous remercie, en baissant les mains de vostre maieste bien humblement, dont de brief j'espere que le bon dieu, qui miraculeusement m'a preserue à deux diuerses sois de nausrage, me donnera le moien de faire mon rapport tout à plain.

En ce pais tout est tranquille, graces a dieu, et florissant en bonnes loix, religion et trafique. Il est vrai qui despuis la derniere flotte et expedition en Espaigne, la nauigation n'est si frequente.

Jcy lon dit que la flotte d'Espaigne pour certain ayt esté en chemin, pour se jetter sur l'une des places dont j'ai escript a vostre maieste. Quand j'estoye en Zelande qui feroit forte de 160 galeons, hulques, nauires, patares et portant (comme l'aultres de lan [15]88) feize mille hommes, entre lesquelles il auroit 2100 cheuaulx, et que par tempeste du 25, 26, 27, et 28 d'Octobre elle feroit diffipee, et auroit perdu jusques a 48 nauires auec cincq ou fix milles Efpaignolls.

En Alemaigne est grand trouble, car l'armee de l'Empereur, qui estoit de quattre vingts mille combatans est rompue par le Turcq, et en font sur la place demoures morts plus de dix mille, le canon et trefgrand nombre prins, et tout le bagage. On efcript jey pour certain que deuant ladicte bataile deux cerfs fe font venus ruer deuant le palais du dict Empereur, en la ville de Prage et quan aprez long combat l'vn y dust estre tombè roide mort et l'aultre fort bleffè, et au mesme instant le dict palais sust embraife de feu cafuel.

Le Turcq auparauant auoit prins la ville d'Agria trefgrande et forte, et ce par trahifon d'un Capitaine Hongrois nommè Bliari, lequel depuis en est fait Baffa.

Ledict Sultan Mahomet f'ayant fait maistre de la Walachie, laquelle a eux foloit estre tributaire, deuant que ces deux ans passez ou enuiron, le Prince de la Tranfiluanie avoit prins le party de l'Empereur et a fait tuer tous les inhabitans et y à fait venir 800^m Tartares auec femmes et familles.

Le Baffa de Bude affige auec vne aultre armee la ville d'Altenbourg en lestat de Kamora.

Le grand Turcq est auec fon armee en personne et y se iournera contre fa coustume. L'Empereur soubz pretexte d'vne diet s'est retire de Prage en la ville de Noremberg.

De la mort du Roy d'Espaigne nous auons jey auis fur auis mesmement que fon filz feroit empoiffonne quand de quand. Les Marchans de Genes et aultres estant en arriere du dict Roy de huict millions d'or font refusez en Espaigne, et ceux d'Anuers de cincq, chose qui cause en Flandres et Brabant grande alteration.

Le Cardinal d'Auftrie eft on se faint malade cependant force matelos et mariniers l'affemblent vers Calais.

La paix faicte entre le Roy de France et le Duc de Sauoye est rompue a cause que le parlement n'a voulu permettre au dict Duc le Marquizat de Salluffe.

Les treues entre le Turq et les Polonnois font renouuelles non obstant l'ambassade et folicitude du Pape au contraire, et ce, diton, a cause, que le chancelier de Poloigne est ennemy professe de la maison d'Austrie. La dict Alemaigne est aussi miserablement mangee de la peste. La dict Cardinal prepare se forces jusques a 18^m hommes de guere de ce coste et de France on se prepare aussi.

J'espere de brief auoir l'honneur et heur de dire d'auantage a vostre maieste.

A laquelle je baiffe treshumblement ses mains.

De la Haye ce 8 de Decembre 1596, Stilo nouo.

De vostre serenissime Maieste treshumble seruiteur,

Adr. Damman.

XIV.—LES ESTATS GENERAULX DES PROVINCES VNIES AU SERENISSIME ROY D'ESCOSSE.

XXVIII DECEMBRE 1596.

Sire,

Nous auons entendu par le rapport du Sr Damman nostre agent, ce quil a pleu a vostre maieste nous faire communicquer par luy de la constitution de l'estat d'Escosse, * au temps quil en est party, esperans

[•] In Thorpe's Catalogue of MSS. August 1835, occurs "Rapport de Monsieur Adrian Damman, agent des Etats des Provinces Unies en Escosse sur l'état de ce Royaume d'Escosse (1600)."

que icelle vostre maieste aura depuis tellement pourveu, et donne ordre a tout ce qui pourroit caufer plus grands mescontentements et aigreurs entre les fubiects des deux Royaulmes quil n'y arriuera par femblables accidens aulcun dangier ou inconuenient, du quelle le Roy d'Espaigne nostre ennemi commun se pourroit preualoir en ceste coniuncture au preiudice non tant feullement de l'eftat desdictes Royaulmes en particulier, ains de celuy de toute la Chrestienté en general : Nous remerfions. Sire, vostre maieste bien humblement de cest honneur et correfpondence, principallement de la demonstration de fa bonne volonte et affection enuers cest estat, auecq affeurance que nous vous en demeureronstoufiours fort obligez, comme auffi trefapareillez a toutes occasions pour correspondre ceste grande faueur par noz bien humbles seruices aultant que nos affaires le pourront aulcunement permectre. Ainfy qu'auons en chargé nostredict agent de le declarer plus amplement ce vostre dicte maieste, suppliants bien humblement quil vous plaise luy donner en ce regard entiere foy, comme a nous mefmes, et au createur,

Sire,

Quil Octroy a vostre maieste en tresparfaicte sante longue et tresheureuse vie. De la Haye le 28° Decembre 1596.

De vostre Maieste bien humble feruiteurs,

LES ESTATZ GENERAULX DES PROVINCES VNIES DU PAYS BAS.

Par ordonnance defdictes Eftatz,

C. Aersens.*

Au Serenissime Roy d'Escosse.

[·] Balcarras Papers.

XV .-- EARL OF HUNTLY TO JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Eftir the fuffering of monie hard and uechtie troublis nithin this contrey, and at the laft, eftir the banifment of my felf, to gif your maiestie gretar proof of my obediens and affection, I am retournit of intention halie to put my felf in your maiestis uill, and to direct my haill actions heirestir as salbe maist agreable therto, not onlie in amending in quhatsumeuir it fall pleis your maiestie think that I haue offendit touards your maiestie felf, bot alsueill to the kirk, contrey and pairtie, as it sall pleis your maiestie to set down the uay; for, fra this furth, I haue dedicat my self to follou your maiestie in all respects,* and this I esteim the gretest amendement I can offer, albeit my offens uar neuer sugreat, and your maiestie knauis that the prins pairt to his subiects suld be as the sathers to the childrin, not be rigour to seik thair utter ruin (albeit raclessie thay haue faillit), bot be humiliation to accept thair amendement, the ernist defyr I haue to do your maiestie humble feruis, and that I be not langer

^{*} The Earl of Huntly was much favoured by James, and, according to popular rumour, his Lordship murdered the Earl of Murray at the instigation of his royal master, who had become jealous of the "Bonnie Earl" (as he is termed in the beautiful ballad on his death), from the praise bestowed on him by Queen Anne. Whatever the cause was, true it is, that Lord Murray was attacked by Huntly, at his seat of Dunybirsill-his house set on fire, and himself slain. Subsequently he became mixed up with Lords Angus and Errol in the matter of the Spanish Blanks. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. p. 310. On the 3d of October 1594, he defeated, at the battle of Glenlivat, the Earl of Argyle, who had gone against him-a victory very beneficial to the country people, who otherwise would have been "miserably spoiled" by the Highlanders; Spottiswood's Church History, 1677, folio, p. 409. Huntly and the two other Popish Lords retired abroad, but finding they were little respected there, became anxious to return; and as Huntly was still secretly favoured by the King, this might have been accomplished but for the clergy, who were not easily propitiated. They were not indisposed to favour Angus and Errol, but Huntly was particularly obnoxious. When James hinted the thing to Mr Robert Bruce, he replied, "I see, sir, that your resolution is to take Huntly in favour, which if you do I will oppose, and you shall chuse whether you will lose Huntly or me, for us both you cannot get." The King never forgave the speaker.

debarrit therfra, is the occasion that I have taine the hardiment to utter the mor plainlie, be this prefent, my intention, requesting your maiestie to grant me that fauour, as to be relaxit from the profes of excomunication ather be your maiestie and confell, or than be chargis direct to the ministrie of thir pairts to that effect, or be oni uther uay your maiestie fall think maift expedient, that thaireftir I may have that honour as to cum to your maiestis auin presens, quhar I sall accomplis, Goduilling, all that I have promefit be thir prefentis; hoping that your maiftie will confider my gud intention and mening in this, and that your maiestie will not debar him from your maiestis presens and seruis, quhais actions, affection, and obediens fall gif proof of his gud mening. And becaus the hicheft point of my accufation bygaine hes bein vpon inbringing of straingeris, nou your maiestie fall have proof of me in that point in the contrar, be being the first to uair my bluid aganis thaeme, quhan euer it fall pleis your maiestie to command me. Sua, expecting your maiestis fauorable ansuer, eftir the kissing maist humble of your maiestis hand, I uill end, uiffing at God to give your maiestie grace to tak that cours quhilk is maift to your maieftis honour, weilfair, and union of your contrey, and to grant your maiestie lang and prosperous rengne. Uretin this penult of December [1596].

Your Maiestis maist humble subject and affectionat feruiteur to my lyuis end,

HUNTLYE.*

To the Kings Maiestie.

Balcarras Papers.

XVI.-EARL OF ERROL TO JAMES VI.

SIR,

As in all thir tymes past, quhairin I haif sufferit fa gryt trwbles and irrecowerable loss, God bearis me witness of a fincer intentioune and dewtifull affectioune to 30ur maiesties feruice, howfoeuer my vprycht meaning hes bein exponit ewill be vtheris, and the effectis thairof conwertit to my awin damag, fa now, as diuerse tymes affoir, I doe maist hwmillie craif 30ur hieness pardoune for my baldness in offering my self be this present to 30ur maiestie in all thingis, sa far as appertenis or may be thocht the dewtie of a maist hwmill and faythfull subiect and seruant to his soueraing and maister; quhairof I euer haif bein, am, and salbe, reddie to gif pruif vith the hazart of my lyf and loss of my blood.

In confideration quhairof, I doe maift hwmillie befeik, that, as heirtofoir, your hienefs hes nocht difdanit to refaue my letteris, and gif ear alfo to fic of my freindis as maid fuit for me, fa now lykways it may pleafs your maieftie patientlie to heir of this berar quhat, on my pairt, I haif directit him to fhawe and hwmillie craif of your hienefs, and to inftruct him of your maiefties will in all.

And thus ceffing farther to impefhe zour hienefs vith langar letter, in maift hwmillie kiffing zour maiefties handis, and praying God to bring all zour hienefs verteoufs defingis to the wifhit end, I taik leif. The 25 day of Januar 1596. [1597.]

Your Maiesties euer maist luising, faythful, and obedient subiect and seruant, to his last breath.

ERROLL.*

[·] Balcarras Papers.

XVII.—LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ECOSSE. 10 DE JANVIER 1597.*

SIRE,

Le Sieur Damman, a fon retour en ces pais bas, ma faict entendre que vostre maieste me faict ceste faueur de me continuer touf-jours ses faveurs roialles, et de me tenir du nombre de ses plus affectionner serviteurs, de quoy je me sens lui estre infiniment oblige. Je ne voy voulu laisser retourner sans qu'il portast de mes lettres a vostre maieste pour lui assurer de nouueau de l'assection, que je porte a son service et que je mestimeray tousjours tres heureux, quand les occasions sen offriront, et qu'il vous plaira, Sire, m'honorer de vos commandemens de vous faire cognoistre par les essects, que je suis,

Vostre treshumble et tres obeiseant serviteur,

MAURICE DE NAUSSAU.†

A la Haye, ce 10 de Janvier -97.

Au Roy d'Escosse.

[Indorfed.]
"10 February 1597. Compte Maurice
to his Maieftie."

· Balcarras Papers.

[†] Prince Maurice died in the spring of the year 1625. "The Prince," says Baron de Maurier, was very strong and indefatigable in labor; he appeared lesser than he was by being full and fat; his face was plump and ruddy; his beard fair, which he wore very large and broad; he always made use of little pleated ruffs about his neck; he never clothed himself but after the same fashion, with the same stuff, and that always of a sort of brown or musk colour; his doublet was of silk with gold stripes; the rest of his cloathes were woollen, but his cloaks or long-coats were faced with velvet: I speak of his common habit, and not of those that were designed for great

XVIII .- PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN TO THE MINISTERS OF LOTHIAN.

BRETHER,

This is to aduertife how we of this ministrie in this countrey ar chargit be his maiesteis letteris, under pain of horning, to gif conference to the Erle of Huntley, and farder ar informit that he hes his maiefties letteris to charge ws to refaif his offeris, and gif thai be agreabill with Godis word and weill of the countray, to abfolue him fra the fentence of excommunicatioun, or than to compeir within fyftein dayis next after the charge before his maiestie and counfall, and to gif a reason guhy we will not do the fam. Farder, we ar informit be fum of his freindis that he will offer to fubfcryue the Confessioun, and gif cautioun of his freindis for bygane offencis, as the kirk shall injoyne, albeit we sie not as yit that he is refoluit in the articles of the Confessioun in particular: And therfor, we being heir a few number convenit to haif gifin conference to him, nocht feing him fa inftant in futing therof, as be petitionis gifin in to ws, and fubferguit be him, quherof 3e fall refaif with thir prefentis a just copie, crafing of ws that we wald abfolue him for the causis therin contenit, defyred of him a day to conuen our bretheren of all our presbiteries, that, with common aduyfe, we mycht gif answer. Also Pa[trick] Murray, his maiesties domestik, hes schawin ws fundrie instructiouns of his maiestie, crafing our answer to the fam, quha hes requyrit ws to assemble our felfis, and declaris that he hes a commissioun to requyr our bretheren of Murray to conven with ws, and to refaue our answeris to his instructionis, quherbe we

feasts and public assemblies. He often wore on his hat a band of diamonds; he was never without a girdle, to which was fastened a sort of belt for his sword that was gilt. I never saw him in any other habit, and yet I have minded him a thousand times at the French church, in the castle at the Hague, which heretofore was a chappel for the Counts of Holland, and often at my father's, whither he used to come either to eat or play at chess, which was his chief diversion."—Memoirs of Princes of Orange, p. 148.

ar chargit to fubferyue the band, to difalow the ministeris of Edinburgh as feditiouse and treasonable; also declaring the nulling of the commiffioun of the Generall Affembly be his maiefties counfell, and confequently of ony inhibitioun maid be tham to flay ws from refauing the erle of Huntley, and that na delay be langer wfit in his refauing be ws, than be the presbiterie of St Androwis, wes vsit in his excommunication, and that the absolutioun may be ratefeit heirafter in the Generall Assembly, as the excommunicatioun wes lang after the fentence pronuncit. Item, that we fuld not dout quhat form of fatiffactioun he fuld mak, feing the acte of Parliament, maid anno 1572, intituled anent difobedientis qubilk falbe refauit to our foueran lordis mereie and pardon, declars the fam, quhilk is nathing els, but to fubfcryue the Confessioun of Fayth, and fweir accordingly. Item, we ar chargit to refolue the questiounis prefented be his maiestie against the last of Februar in Perth, and schewing ws that a number of all prefbiteries, thair with 30w, most discreit, hes affirmit thair is litle questioun but the hail ministrie will agre to his maiesties intentioun in all those controuerses. Quhairfore we haif writtin baith to our bretheren of the Merns and Murray to fend fum of thair number best instructed to keip heir with ws our prouinciall affembly vpon the aucht of Februar, with common aduyfe to gif answer to his maieslies inftructiounis, and the erle of Huntley his petitiounis: And for the fam caufe hes writtin to zow and the bretheren thair, for zour counfall, and mainlie that ye will imploy zour credit with fik bretheren as ar maift gratiouse to his maieftie, to obtein a continewatioun of all thir chargis and answers, till the Generall Affembly nexte at Perth; specially seing my lord Huntley is not refoluit in the doutis of religioun, and we ar redy to gif him daylie conference to that effecte. This day he wes at fermoun in our kirk, bath afor and efter none, and hard the doctrin, and remufit him felf at the prayer, and we hope if he be found willing afore the tym appointed to the nexte Generall Affembly to do mekle till it for his refolutioun. But if 3e can not get ws continewatioun of his maieftie, we pray 30w fend ws the counfall and [aduyfe] of the bretheren maift difcreit thair with zow, with all diligence, that we may haif the fam befor the 8 of Februar. In the mein tym commendis our felfis to zour ernest prayeris to God for ws, as we lykwyfe do pray for 50w. From Aberden, the penult of Januar 1596. [1597].*

Indorfed:

Copie of the letter fent be the prefbitery of Aberdein to the Ministers of Louthian anent the Erle of Huntlie, penult Januarij 1596.†

XIX.-ROBERT LORD CRICHTON OF SANQUHAR TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Finding na fuir commoditie till now, I wes constrainit till delay the fending 50ur maiesties letters, quhill I ranconterritt this gentilman, quha promisit till delyuer thame out of his awin hand. At my arryual in France, I went immediatlie to the army befoir Amiens,‡ quhair I delyueritt 50ur maiesties letters to the king and Monsieur de Rohan,§ and retirit thair ansuers, quhilkis it will pleis your maiestie ressaif fra this beirir. I rememberitt lykwayis 50ur maiesties commendatiouns to Monsieur du Mayene, quhometo 50ur maiestie in my simpill opinioun suld do verie weill to wryte, and gif it wer bot a letter of complimentis till entertency his affectioun to 50ur feruice, for 50ur maiestie may mak 50ur count to draw mair feruice out of that prince alane, and 5e haif ado with

- His Lordship was finally absolved and reconciled to the church. See Melros Papers, vol. ii, p. 613 to 618. Edinburgh, 1837. 4to. A very amusing account of the ceremonial upon the occasion of receiving his Lordship and the Earl of Errol to the King's peace, at Aberdeen, is given in a letter from Thomas Mollisone to Mr Robert Paip, Advocate, 27th June 1597. Analecta Scotica, vol. i. p. 299.
 - + Balcarras Papers.
- ‡ This reference to the troops of Henry IV. being before Amieus fixes the date of the letter, as the Spaniards having in 1597 surprised that city, the King immediately besieged and retook it, in spite of the efforts of Archduke Albert. Upon learning the news of the surprisal, his majesty said, "Let us go; we have acted the King of France long enough; it is now time to act the King of Navarre."
- § The Viscount de Rohan, a distinguished Huguenot warrior. He was created a duke and peer in 1603, was mortally wounded at the battle of Rheinfield, and died on the 13th of April 1638, at the Abbey of Kunisfield, in the Canton of Bern. His corpse was interred in the Great Church of Geneva. He bequeathed his armour to the Republic of Venice, and it was received by the senators with extraordinary respect. Henry IV. having paid his addresses to his sister Catherine, she told him that she was too poor to be his wife, and of too good a family to be his mistress.

men, then a greit pairt of the rest of 3our forraine freindschips, as weill for his valour and experience, quhilk I can beir witness in this army he hes fchawin at this tyme to furpass all the captaines in France, as for the greit affectioun he carvis towards 30ur maieftie, quhairof I may alfo beir record, as haiffing it out of his awin mouth. I mynd, God willing, to taik journey towards Italy within four or fyue dayis, quhilk culd be na foner; for being engadgit with the king be his command, I culd nocht with my credeit leif him till he was reteirit himfelf, and had put the army in garnifoun. I will ceifs to wryte zour maiestie onie occurrents, for I am certaine 3e haif thame frescher and frome a bettir place be Ingland; alwayis I haif informit the berar of fic as wer current in this court for the prefent, quha will informe zour maieftie at length. As for my awin pairt (Sir), I wald onlie wifs at God, that I mycht be that happy anis in my lyfe to do 3our maiestie onie aggreable feruice, as ane quha finding him felf fa far chargit in obligatioun, nocht onlie as a commoun and naturall fubiect, bot be infinit particular fauours, that I am forie that I am wnabill to gif your maiestie at this tyme onie small recognossance of refentiment, bot man intreit zour maiestie to content zour self to restaif of him, quha man remaine raither in hairt then habilitie to answer thame, in place of thay humbill thankis, that I aw a deuotioun of mynd fa greit, that it dar compair evin with the greitnes of zour maiesties fauour. Sua, humbly fubmitting my nakit good will and pore feruice to zour maiefties gratious cenfure, quha can ferue zour felf of the litile meritt of wtheris to maik your fauours the greiter, I hoip to comporte my felf, fua that your maieftie fall judge me for a faithfull and affectionat feruand, quha feiking all meinis to inhabill himfelf to do zow feruice, fall neuir ceifs, till fum happy occasioun prefent, quhairin zour maiestie may sie that thair is nane living, quha caryis a mair honeft and trew hairt to zour feruice. then zour maiefties maift humble and affectionat feruitour,

SANCHAR.*

Paris, 3 September [1597.]

To the Kingis Maiestie.

• Robert, sixth Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, had charters of the barony of Sanquhar, 27th July 1609, and of Gowrie House in Perth, 10th January 1611. In 1605, whilst on a visit to Lord

XX.-PRIVATE INSTRUCTIONS BY KING JAMES VI. TO HIS AMBASSADORS.

A Private Inftruction to the Erle of Marre and Abbot of Kinloffe, my Ambaffadouris towardis the Quene of Englande.

YE fall temper and frame all youre dealing uith the quene or counfall, by the aduife of my freindis thaire, quhofe counfall ye fall directlie follou in all youre behauioure thaire, uith thefe referuations only, quhiche by tounge I deliuered unto you, and if that actuallie thay performe thaire, promeifis on thaire pairt, I give you by thefe prefentis of my owin hande, ample powaire to give thaime full affurance of my affifting thaime accordinglie.

JAMES R.*

Norreys, in fencing with a fencing-master called Turner, his Lordship accidentally got one of his eyes put out, and was for some time in danger of his life. Seven years afterwards he hired two assassins, one of them called Robert Carlyle, to murder the unfortunate Turner, which was effected by the last named person, who shot him with a pistol, 11th May 1612, for which he and his accomplice were executed. Lord Sanguhar absconded, but was apprehended, tried, and sentenced to die. He was hanged on a gibbet with a silken halter, erected in Great Palace Yard, before the gate of Westminster-hall, 29th June 1612. He died penitent, professing the Roman Catholic religion. He married at St Anne's, Blackfriars, 16th April 1608, Anne, daughter of Sir George Farmer of Easton, in the county of Northampton, but had no issue by her. He left all his property to his natural son, but the heir-male, William, seventh Lord Sanguhar, disputed the succession, and matters were adjusted upon a reference to James VI., who issued notes of an award, an extractfrom which was printed by Lord Hailes, Memorials of the Reign of James VI. p. 51. See also the Melros Papers, pages 127, 132, 133, 264, 265. The King ordered that the magistrates of Perth should take an "exact count and inventorie of the haill gudis, gear, plenishing, hingings, siluer-work, and quhat else is within his house in Perth, or any other part of the burgh, and put them in sure custodie."-Chronicle of Perth, p. 13. Great interest was used to save his Lordship's life, but James was inexorable; less, it is said, from an extraordinary love of justice, than because his Lordship had not resented an insult offered to his Majesty in a company in Paris, where some one had observed that it was no wonder James was called Solomon, since he was the son of David-i. e. David Rizzio. His Lordship, if the story be true, suffered not because he had killed one man, but because he had not killed two. This letter is amongst the Balcarras MSS.

 Autograph of the King. Balfour MSS. This embassy was sent in February 1601, ostensibly for the purpose of congratulating Elizabeth upon her suppression of the Earl of Essex's insane

XXI.-FROM AN UNKNOWN PERSON* PERHAPS TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

ALBEIT that I have not aunswered your lordships letter, nevertheless I hoope that my filence shal receive that favorabl construction which my innocency may challenge of right; for I was resolved to commit no letter to the hands of fortune, seeing that the expectation of a litt tyme might secure the passage of thoose papers, which I decreed to consecrate only to your self. And if the debt I owe you might bee payed by woordes, I would frankly spende al my tyme in acknowlegement of your fauours, which beare fruits of such forte, that so foone as I have receaved them, they begin to bud forth, and to produce new blossomes. Nevertheless, my hoope is, that all the world shalk knowe, that power in requiting hath rather sayled mee, then will. Therfor, pardon mee, I beseech you, if, wanting meanes to discharge the debt I owe, I am constreined to runn on the old skoare, and to spende still out of your lordship's stocke.

I have at length fent his majefty an abstract of such gentlemen's names as are in greatest accompt in Englande, the greatest part wheros

attempt at rebellion. The letter written by James to the English Queen is printed in Crawford's Lives of the Officers of State, p. 403; the real object was to conciliate his friends in London, and settle with Cecil and the rest of them the line of procedure to be adopted in the event of Elizabeth's demise. It was on this occasion that the secret correspondence was arranged, which has been partially printed by Lord Hailes. Edin. 1766, 12mo. "The Queen received Lord Mar very graciously, and besides other things presented him with a very fyne bason and lawer of mother of pearle, with several rubies and pearles sett therein, which the family have this hour."—History of the Family of Marr, collected in the year 1705, by Mr George Erskin, Bailif of Alloa. MS. in possession of the Editor.

• This letter, which is written in a very legible and distinct hand, has the figure 7 substituted for the writer's name; who he may have been the Editor has been unable to ascertain. There is another letter from the same person to the King, in which the proper names are also indicated by figures; and, to increase the difficulty, the figure 7 is in it applied to some other individual. Both letters are amongst the Balfour MSS.

are knowne vnto my felf: the reft I have had intelligence of by many wary questions, and fundry relations of thoose that weer well assured of that which they informed. And concerning the apologetical preface, I haue deliuered my opinion, wherin I jumpe just with your lordship's cenfure therof, hooping that his highnes will take your woord in my behalfe, that my difference from the forme of an apology, fpringeth not from any fpirit of contradiction, but from the obedience I owe, to answer truly vnto enery demaunde his majefty shal propounde vnto mee. Also, I haue fent a discoursiue aunswer vnto certeyne questions, wherin I suppose, that though perhaps I may feeme to shoote at rouers, I have not shott very wide from the marke. Our queene is trubled with a rhewme in her arme, which vexeth her uery much; besides the greefe shee hath conceiued for my lord of Effex his deathe:* fhee fleepeth not fo much by day as flee ufed, nether taketh reft by night: her delight is to fit in the darke, and fometimes with flieddinge of tears to bewayle Effex. This is the reason that wee haue so many horse about London, the particularitis wherof I refer to Mr Foules. In any cafe, let mee intreate you to follicite his majefty to fend often, and though the jorney bee longe and peynefull, I doubt not, but that Mr Foules will gladly vndertake the charge, wherin fo good feruice may bee performed: for it is expedient that the meffenger bee skilful in our present estate, trusted by us, and knowne to bee confidente with the kinge. Concerning my felf, or the feruice which I may performe, ether in this place, or in any whatfoeuer, I proteft that I remayne firme, and ready to bee imployed whenfoeuer his majefty shal grace mee with his commandements. For I breathe no other contentment then that which may turne to the advancement of fo gratious a prince, and the eafe of his diffressed cuntry. In what state wee flande at this prefent, may better bee related by Mr Foules, Quæque ipfe miferrima vidit, then by a fhort narration of perpetual woes.

Therfor I will aduertife your lordfhip of your owne affairs, wherin I haue traueyled to the vttermoast of my power, and gotten a particular

[·] Beheaded 25th February 1601.

information for al Caris proceedings touching Whorlton.* The common voice of the tennants is, that hee payed only a 1000 marks to the queen; but having conferred with himfelf, I founde him much difcontented, as hee pretended, for the great price he had payed, videlicet, 1800 lib.; but I beleue him not therin, nether doth 3 or I think it fitt that anythirde perfon shoulde compounde with him for itt; for it is certeyne that, feing it is already leaced, it wil not bee bought but at an vnreasonabl rate, and the tyme will come when he wilbe glad to take half the mony hee hath difburfed, for his interest therin. The queene hath fold a greate parte of the Duchy of Cornwell and Lancafter, which landes must ether be recalled, as wee haue a prefident therof in Henry the Fourth's tyme, or boughte agayne to vnite them to the crowne. I have fent your Lordship a draught of the furuay of Whorlton, which I gott cunningly out of the checker. Likewife, you fhal receive a coppy of a letters pattents, taken out of the R[ecords?] which is counted to conteyne the moaft general woordes that may bee used in a good and perfect affurance. And albeit, that the name of a rectory agree not with your mannors, it importeth not, feing that mutatis mutandis, for as much as concerneth the names, the whole process of the graunte is to be observed. I feare that you can hardly reade itt, for it is written in badd Lattin and abbreviations, which is the manner of the clarks that coppy anny recorde out of the chauncery. The graunte you fent mee, with the claufe of renewinge the letters pattents in die illo, is held to bee better then any other affurance that can nowe bee made by the kinge. I will deteyne your Lordship no longer: befeeching you to build upon

[•] Whorlton, in the district of Cleveland, Yorkshire, had been granted by Henry VIII. to Mathew Earl of Lennox, and Margaret his wife. From them it appears to have passed into the hands of Henry Earl of Northumberland, who shot himself in the Tower, 21st June 1585; as, by an inquisition post mortem, taken at Topcliffe (2d October), it is proved that he was seised of the castle and manor of Whorlton. Possession afterwards seems to have been resumed by the crown; and the Carey referred to in the letter may not unreasonably be conjectured to have been Sir Robert Carey, afterwards Earl of Monmouth, whose father, Lord Hunsdon, was maternally related to Elizabeth. The advice given relative to the treating with this person, materially supports the presumption that the party addressed was Lord Bruce of Kinloss, as he afterwards obtained a crown grant of the estate, which is now in possession of his descendant the Marquis of Allesbury, one of whose titles is Earl Bruce of Whorlton.

that good foundation of my affection, which your merite hath firmely layd; for my defir is to streyne my vttermoast ability to bee alwais of the formoast in

Your Lordships feruice,

.7.

XXII.—JACOBUS REX SCOTORUM, INVICTISSIMO PRINCIPI SHAUGH ABBAS.
1601.

Jacobus, Dei Gratia, Rex Scotorum, Omnumque Infularum circumjacentium: ac Regnorum potentiffimorum Angliæ et Hiberniæ fummo ejufdem Jehonæ nutu Hæres proximus.

Potentissimo et invictissimo Principi Shaugh Abbas, Persarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmanorum, Margianorum, populorum, cis et ultra Tigrim Fluvium et omnium intra mare Caspium et Persicum sinum, nationum atque gentium Imperatori: Salutem et rerum prosperarum sociicissimum incrementum.

Cum non ita pridem, nobiliffimus ille Eques Anglus, Antonivs Sher-Leivs* Legatione fibi a Majeitate vestra commissa pulcherrimè functus apud

Sir Anthony Shirley, knight, was the second son of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wistenston, Sussex, by Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe. He was protected by Robert Earl of Essex, under whose auspices he undertook several voyages.! Queen Elizabeth sent him in 1596 into America, and afterwards, in the winter of 1598, into Italy, to assist the Perrarese, who had revolted from the Pope. He subsequently went with his brother Sir Robert to Persia, where he was favourably received, and in 1601 was employed by Shah Abbas to negotiate a general alliance with all the Christian powers against the Turks. His Majesty, however, detained Sir Robert, "being younger, and therefore the more to be tendered, and not every day exposed to new dangers."—Purchas, his Pilgrims, Part II, p. 1407. The letter from the Balfour MSS. by James to the Persian Monarch refers to this embassy. After many vicissitudes of life and strange adventures, this remarkable person died in Spain, in the year 1636. The exploits of Sir Anthony and his two brothers form the subject of a very entertaining dramatic piece by Day, Rowley, and Wilkins, intituled "The Travels of the Three English Brothers, Sir Thomas, Sir Anthony, and Sir Robert Shirley, an Historical Play. 1607, 4to."

P

multos Principes, in Aula etiam Cæfarea, fapienter fortiterque permulta de rebus Perficis peroraffet: dici non potuit quantum fplendoris nomini vestro accesserit, cum omnes publice testarentur, neque per vastas solitudines, afpera juga, vel infolita maria, vllam virtuti veftræ inviam effe viam: num cum plurima apud nos ab historicis commemorantur bella factaque egregia, ab Imperatoribus Perficis, terra marique gefta, in quibus fortuna maximam partem proprio quodam fuo jure expetere videatur. In ista Legatione, qua fancta hospitalitatis jura, et dulcia communis humanitatis officia inter nos, nostra regna, nostrosque subditos constitui, coli et constanter conseruari queant, non hoc fortunæ sed confilii, non cafus fed virtutis, certiffimum argumentum effe conftat. Nec in re tam plana halucinari debemus, quin omnipotentis Dei fumma prouidentia ratum effe fateamur; vt fortiffimus ille miles Sherleyvs, nullis vel parentum illustrium præcibus, vel amplissimi patrimonii spe slecti potuit, quo minus dulciffima fua patria derelicta in finum Majestatis vestræ feipsum fortunamque fuam conjicerit; fperamus itaque brævi affuturum tempus cum ex mutuo omnium Principum confenfu, infefta gentis Turcicæ infignia lacera et fub pedibus contrita, ludibrio et rifui exponentur. Veruntamen illud nos male habet, quod in re tam feria et tam necessaria de Anglorum auxiliis nihil promittere, nedum fperare aufi fumus. Herois etenim Comitis Effexij, qui ad omnes bellicas expeditiones fulminis instar paratus effe folebat, violenta ac inopinata mors, Regni illius incolas adeo obstupesecit, vt interna potius timere, quam externa sperare, malint: maxima quippe pars eorum qui Anglorum habenas hodie moderantur priuatis odijs non folum inter fe certant; veruntamen propter initam a mercatoribus fuis cum Turcis amicitiam, strenue, huic nostræ legationi fefe opponunt. Quod cum per confidentes noftros exploratum haberemus illico Equitem Sherleyvm admonere et hortari, non dubitauimus, ne vana et Majestati vestræ non profutura sibi ipsi exitralia inciperet. Qui quidem authoritati ac confilio nostro acquiescens, exulem se fieri quodammodo paffus eft, vt pofthac cum corona illius imperii ad nos deuoluta fuerit, vberiores fructus laborum fuorum reportare posiit. Nam cum Regnum Angliæ munitissima classe instructum, ac totius orbis circumnauigatione celeberrimum terrorem maximum genti Ottomanæ incutiat, dubium non est, quin diuino spirante numine ex istis amicitiæ sælicibus auspicijs, vobis et nostris eternam gloriam cum summa vtilitate conjunctam aliquando simus consequuturi. Magnanimum itaque Equitem Sherleyym Majestati vestræ ita commendatum esse velimus, vt pote hominem omnis generis armorum, et politicæ rationis peritissimum, in quo minus valent verba quam sides, manus quam animus, vtrisque tamen insignibus præclarus. Etsi fortitudinem illam quæ virtutis stirpe stipata mirum suæ indolis specimen toties edidit, conservatam et nutritam fore intellexerimus vniuerso mundo palam innotescere faciemus, plus virium habuisse beneuolentiam ad nos conjungendos, quam terram et mare ad nos longissime seperandos. Deus Optimus Maximus salutem omnem et perpetuam vestræ concedat Majestati. Datum in Scotia in inclito nostro Palatio Edinburgi, Anno Mundi 5680, Domini nostri Jesv Christi 1601, Regnorum vero postrorum xxxiiii.

Amantiffimus frater tuus,

JACOBUS R.

Potentissimo et invictissimo Principi, Shavgh Abbas, Persarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmianorum, Margianorum populorum, cis et vltra Tigrim sluuium, et omnium intra mare Caspium et Persicum sinum, nationum atque gentium, Imperatori.

XXIII SIR JAMES COLVILLE TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

Cousing,

Efter my hartly commendation, I culd not omit thir feu lynis that 5e may knau of my profperus ariuel to this toun, defyring 3ou to haue my maift humble feruice recommendit to his hines. It greifis mekil in my paffing throuche Ingland, the los he hes for laik of fum refident honest man, in quhom baithe his maiftie micht confyd, and sik as interly

low him micht affur them felfis; for, to be plain, I dout vtheris for caufis I vill not vret. I pray the Lord grant him that grace that he may faueur them ouha lovis him aboue al. I dout not bot or now ze haue refauit my letter from Londoun, defyring erneftly to knau the fucces of that maiter aganis his maiestie. I hoip vithe the grace of God to discouer mair in that nor his maieftie hes zit hard; as also in fundry other practifes aganis him. At my first cumming I heir no bruit but of ver, quhilk I beleue not, albeit it be faid heir his maiestie is makand for Lion for the secours of Geneua, quhilk I dout not ze haue hard hes falziit to be takin be the duik of Sauoy: fua is it vretin heir be the governouris nepho from curt. It shuld have bein takin be ane pitard: they var anes fyve hundrethe vithin the toun, guherof at left remanit 300 vithe the principal guho commandit. Monfieur de Buillon cummis not, bot the king hes fend ane Commartyn to him: I knau not his meffage. The greteft thing is imput to him that he flud haid fum condition of filuer for agreing the Archiduik and Compte Mons.

It is not thocht that he haid ony deling vithe Marishal de Biron, in ony fort to haue bein ane Espainzol; alvayis vithe my nixt I shal do gud vil to aduertis zou. For the rest of Marishal de Biron his conspiracy, the king hes, as I can lerne, pardonit al. For Monsieur Monbarro, governeur of Rems, his maiestie desyrit to knau, quhither he vald haue grace or justyce: his ansuer vas justice, for he haid neuer failit to his maiestie,

[•] Charles Gontault, Duc de Biron, Peer and Marshal of France, was condemned to death, and his effects confiscated, the 31st of July 1602. Of the justice of his sentence there can be no question; but when his former services to Henry IV. are remembered, we cannot help thinking that it might have been commuted. "The executioner," says Pierre Mathien, "struck him so high above the nape of the neck as hee glanced vpon his lawe-bones, and left a great tufte of hair on his neck. Being dead, hee shewed choller in his countenance, as they write of the souldiers which died at the battle of Cannas. Every one departed, commending the Kings justice, and lamenting the misery of so valiant a man, beleeving that of long time they should not see his equall." Grimeston's translation of the General Historie of France [Lon.] 1624. Folio, p. 1049. When Baron de Biron, he consulted a magician at Paris as to his future fortunes, who told him, "That only a back blow of the Bourguignon would keepe him from being a king." This prediction was remembered when in the Bastille, and having learned that the executioner of Paris was a Bourguignon, he exclaimed, "I am a dead man." That admirable old poet, Chapman, wrote a Tragedy in two parts, entitled "The Conspiracie, and Tragedy of Charles Duke of Byron, Marshall of France, acted lately in two playes at the Black-friars and other publique stages." London, 1625. 4to.

faif that he hed ingagit al he haid for his feruice: it is rather thocht Mairifhal de Bryfak his il vil nor ony other thing agains him, faue the takin doon of Fontineles* hed, quhilk vas fend to Rhems, quhilk he causit tak doon, he being his kinsman.† I man zit ernestly request zou to remember my cousing, Captain Coluill, to his maiestie, quha hes losit al his esperance for his maiesties service, and hopis he shall shortly git better prous nor he hes zit doon. I vret to zou afor tuiching mester Dauid Foulis;‡ lat him mak zou prive to the maiter; for the man is content, and defyris only the surface of convoy. Al vther thing is to neu occation, and my hartly commendation to zour brother. Praying zou that this may ferue zou and fir Thomas Erskyne,§ I remain

Zour maift loving Coufing,

JAMES COLUILL of Weimes.

From Calys our first of Januar [1603.||]

To my Lord, My Lord of Kinlos.

Ther vas neuer fo mayny passageris heir avay. I pray the Lord it be for gud; but his maiestie hes gret caus to luik to him felf.

- . The Baron de Fontenelles was broken on the wheel for his participation in Biron's conspiracy.
- † Monbaraut was committed to prison.
- ‡ Knighted 13th May 1603, and created a Baronet 6th February 1619. He was cofferer to Prince Heury, and afterwards to his brother. He died in the year 1642.
- § Viscount Fenton, 18th March 1606, and Earl of Kellie, 12th March 1619. He was one of the individuals who assisted to rescue the King from the Earl of Gowry and his brother, and for his services obtained a considerable share of the estates of that unfortunate family. He died at London, 12th June 1639, in the 73d year of his age.
- || An extract from this letter has been published by Lord Hailes, who fixes the date to be 1603, from the notice of the manuscript of the Duke of Savoy's attempt on Geneva. Peace was concluded in July 1603 between the Duke and the Genevese.

XXIV .- LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST HEIGH, MAIST EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRENCE, MY ONLYE SOUERAINE AND GRACIOUS LORD,

The lang pruiff and experience I have had off your gracious maiefties thochts and cair, eiuer greatar for the weill and tranquillitie of 3our peipill and fubiects, nor for 3our awin eafe, has maed me to abstein frome wryting to 30ur maiestie this lang quhyle, assuring me self that this happie accresse off 3our maiesties dominions has incressit also greatumlie the occupations off 3our maift nobill minde, and that 3our hienefs be frequencie off lettirs frome all pairts has bein fa occupiet, that butt offence 3our maiestie could nocht be impaschit or distractit frome sa greate affairs, till now, at laft, I have refolued to be my bound dewtie, to gif zour maiestie suim coumpt off that precious jowell it pleasit your hieness to credict to my keiping, 3our maiefties nobill iffue and fone Duc Charles, guha is (praifit be God) for the prefent at bettir health far then he was, and, to mak zour maiestie mair particular accoumpt, eats, drinks, and usis all naturall functions as we wald wifs in onve child off his graces age, except that his night's rest is nocht as 3it sa found as we hoipe in God it fall be fhortlie. The greate weaknesse off his bodie, after so lang and heuje feiknefs, is meikill fuppliet be the might and ftrenth off his fprit and minde: I will affure 3our maieftie he luiks als ftatlie, and bearis als greate ane maiestie in his countenance, as could be requirit of onye prence, albeit four tymis aboue his age. I hoipe in God zour maiestie fall have pleafour and confort off his grace. This I can affure your majestie, be the grace of God, thair fall nathing be omittit may appartein to dew feruice or guid attendance on his grace, quhilk may lye in my fobir powar or habelitie quhatfomeuer. As to the affairs off this zour majefties realme, fence zour hienefs departour frome us (thanks to God), all is in reafonabill guid quietnefs, nor we have hard off na breake as zit

off ony confequence, except in the far Hielands fuim treubill amangs thame felfs betuix Donald Gorme and MacClaude Hereis, quhilk trublis na thing the Lawland. Jour majeftie will onderstand be 3our counfalls lettirs the estait and proceidings with Macgregors. Gif all the greate Hieland clannis war at the like point, I wald think it ane greate eafe and weill to this commoun weill, and to zour maiefties guid fubiects heir. Sik noumber of zour maiefties counfall as is heir (quhilk zour majeftie may confider to be bot weake in refpect off thefe that ar with 3our hienefs), has alwayis hithertill waitit on werie weill and diligentlie on the counfall, and all affairs baith concerning the publik gouernement, and particulars belanging to all preparations for the queeins maiefties jorney. I fall, God willing, for my awin pairt, keip that bound dewtie quhilk I haue aduowit and promift to zour maieftie, and quhilk the innumerable fauours and benefitts I have refauit off zour hienefs onlye beneuolence and maift gracious fauour towards me, requiris off me, and binds me to. Sa, maift humblie taking my leiue, and praying the king eternall off all kingdomes, as he has augmented zour maiesties dominions to fa greate confort and contentment of all zour hienefs fubiects, fa to mantein zour maiestie in lang and prosperous reigne and government above us. With the maift humble kiffe off zour gracious maiefties hand, I refte

Jour Maiesties maist humbill and loyall feruitour,

FYVIE.*

Edinburgh, 29th April 1603.

To the Kings Maieftie.

• Alexander Seton, third son of George, sixth Lord Seton, and brother of Robert, first Earl of Winton, was originally destined for the church, and went to Rome to perfect his ecclesiastical studies. The Reformation induced him to change his intentions, and to betake himself to the study of the law. Finding favour in the eyes of James, his promotion was rapid. He was made President of the College of Justice, 28th May 1593; a Peer of Parliament, by the title of Lord Pryic,

XXV .- THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Hir maiesties present estaite and conditioun I refer to the beiraris reporte. Of hir graices departour to Striveling,* I wes nawayes ane mover thairof, nather skairse acquaynte thairwith; as this beirar cumming in haiste can sufficiently impairte to 30ur maiestie hir graices present estaite and

4th March 1597–8. He was appointed Lord Chancellor in 1604, and created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. Spottiswoode observes that he exercised his place with great moderation, and to the contentment of all honest men. "He professed himself," says Scotstarvet, "a Protestant in outward show, but died an avowed Papist."—Staggering State. Edin. 1754, 12mo. p. 17. He left a large estate, which was made away with by his only son, a very dissipated person, who was so much addicted to gambling, that, if we may credit Scotstarvet, "when he was debarred by promise to play at no game, he devised a new way to clude his oath, by wagering with any who was in his company, who should draw the longest straw out of a stack with the most grains of corn thereon."

The Lord Chancellor died at his seat of Pinkie, on the 16th of June 1622, and was buried at Dalgetty in Fife, with great funeral solemnity, on the 19th of July following. Various interesting particulars relative to his death, and the estimation he was generally held in, occur in the Melros Papers, vol. ii, pp. 460, 477, 478. A poem of some merit, written by John Lyoun, on his demise, published at Edinburgh, 1622, was some years ago reprinted, as a contribution to the Bannatyne Club, by one of the original members.

• Her majesty's visit to Stirling, and subsequent illness, arose out of the following circumstances:—
John, Earl of Mar, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, was much esteemed by James VI. who
appointed him governor of Prince Henry. He gave him "a warrant, all with his own hand, ordering him not to deliver up his son to any person, yea, not though he subscribed a warrant to that
effect, only in case he ordered him by word of mouth to do so, and in such company as he knew
he liked; and it bears, in case of his maiesties death, a command not to deliver him up neither for
Queen nor Estates of Parliament, till the Prince came to be eighteen years of age, when he might
command himself; which argued ane exuberant trust."—Erskyn's MS. Memoirs of the Family of
Mar. Upon the accession of James to the crown of England, he left the Queen to follow him
within about forty days afterwards; but the Prince was to remain at Stirling. Her majesty, however, who was probably jealous of the influence the Earl might acquire over the mind of her son,
procceded to Stirling, where his Lordship resided, and unsuccessfully attempted to carry off the
Prince. Her failure threw her ill, and occasioned a miscarriage.

The King, alarmed for his wife, authorised the delivery of the Prince; but her majesty insisted that Lord Mar should make public reparation for his alleged misconduct. This being refused, she became very much enraged, and was with difficulty reconciled to his Lordship, who, by act of council, was declared to have done nothing that might affect her honour.—See Birch's Life of Prince Henry. 1760, 8vo. p. 30, 31. A letter from the Privy Council, on the subject, will be found in the Melros Papers, vol. i, p. 3. The King's letter, sanctioning Lord Mar's conduct, is, with relative papers, in the Appendix to Hailes' "Memorials" of the Reign of James.

cumpanye, fua it wer loft labour to me to wryte any thing, quherof I haif na forder warrand, bot of this beirar him felf. Jour maieftie fall be fullye acquainted at all occasiouns how materis fall fall out heir; bot if hir hienes jornay wer anes vndertakin, Jour grace fuld sie ane amendment in bygane oversichts, that micht be imputed to ws in the governament, and ane honest and disposit resolution in my felf, at leist to postpone all the feir of hazaird, danger, or inconveniens to that quhilk may redound in any wayes to Jour maiesties honour, or serve for the weill of the puire subjects within this Jour hienes realme. And sa at the present humblic kifsing Jour graice handis, I tak my leave, praying the Almightie God to preserve Jour maiestie in ane gude, happye, and prosperous estaite, be

Jour Maiesties maist humbe and obedient subject and seruitour,

Montroiss.*

Halyrudhous, 10th May [1603?]

XXVI .- THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Thir valuiked for mishappes falling furth heir in this cuntrey, thortureing that contentment quality zoure maiestic refaues in these pairtis, no doubt ar the bettir acceptit, and the mair patiently borne with be zoure hienes, that in this lyife thair can be no full and complete thappines. I will now average renew the remembrance of that laite accident,

• John, third Earl of Montrose. He died 9th November 1608. At the period this letter was written, he was Lord Chancellor of Scotland. Scotstarvet says, in his "time that line was written in the sederunt-house.

Et Bibulo memini consule nil fieri;

for he was altogether void of learning, which King James finding, and perceiving his error, got a fair means to sluffle him out by making him Vice-Roy at a Parliament, 1604, and then putting in Chancellor Scaton in his place. After which he retired home."—Staggering State, p. 14. All the letters that follow, excepting those otherwise marked, are from the Balfour Collections, in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

fafar to be forrowed in the perfoun of the queins graice; albeit, prayfed be God, thair is ane full affurance of hir maiesties preservatioun and full recovery of hir wounted health; bot being bound in dewtye, as ane of 30ur maiesties subjectis, and be the greit manifold graices and favors be tymes bestowed upour me; and last, in respect it hes pleased 50ur maiestie to appoynte me in place of bettir, to supplie the office of chancellarye, I culd nawayes omitt to impainte the very trew estaite of materis as they ftand heir, for the langer that fyire remaines vndifcovered, the laiter cumis the remeide to quenche it; and that wounde and fore, quhilk at the beginning wes baith easie and facile to vndertak, be neglecting of it, the ewire of it may trye difficill, if not impossible. Thair is ane contraversie and jar enterit betuix sum of the nobilitie, anent this laite questioun of the princes delyverye. These that accumpanyed the queins maiestie, ar accompted be the erle of Mar to haif bein the moveris and intyiferis of hir hienes to that enterpryife. Thay thame felfis be aithes protestis, that thay had na intentioun at all, bot hir graices convove, being required be hir missiues thairto. Quhilk chairge thay culd not guidlye difobey. In ather of the contradictours, thair restis greter hatrent and malice, nor as 3it be actioun hes buddit furth; bot if it be nocht preventit, na doubt it is able to mak ane greitar fturre in this cuntrey, than any that hes bein thir mony zeiris ago. In this earand thair restis famony difficulties, that all men depend vpoun zour maiefties will, and nane heir will preifs to meddle with the fame, for be 3our maiesties laite warrand, it is ordaineit, that the erle of Mar fall haif the princes convoy in the queins cumpanye. The queins maieftie is not of mynd to depairt, vnlefs the prince go with hir, and will nawayes reft contented that the erle of Mar fuld accumpany hir. Quherin the counfell heir hes fund that necessitie vpoun thir conclusiouns, that ather mon thay pass the boundis of the laft warrand, quhilk thay can nocht guidlie do of thair dewtye, or than be authorizeing of it, to offend the quein at this toumest tyme of hir hienes difeafe. Only I thocht it nocht amifs to impairte the fame to sour maiestie, maift humblie beseiching zoure hienes to provyde remeids, how the queins graice may reft fatiffied and contentit, the erle of Mar exonerit of that greit chairge, and band that lyis on him for keiping

of the faid prince, and fum ordour to be takin how this eileft and contraverse, licklye to aryise and incress amangis these of the nobilitie, may be settlit and pacifiet. Quheranent, I doubt nocht zour maiestie immediatlie will forsie ane means to help the same, according to that wounted pruis of zour maiesties wisdome and foirsicht, kyithed heirtosoir in the lyke maters. Quhilk as we adoire and admire, sua we rest sorve and discontent to be fa far removeit and separatit from the presence of it amangis ws. And sa humblic taking oure leave, wischeing the almightye God to haif ane cairfull regairde over zour maiesties personn and estaite, I rest, attending quhatevir directions it fall pleis zour maiestie to injoyne, be zour

Maiesties maist humble and obedient fubiect and feruitour,

Montroiss.

Halyrudhous, 13 May 1603. To his Maiestie.

XXVII .- THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

According to that commissione quhilk was direct anent the taking ordour with the Clangregor, we haif refauit alreddie aucht pledgis, and the vther four ar expectit for within thrie or four dayis to remane heir in waird, vpone the perrell of thair awin lyfs, to ansuer for the dew performances of all efferis. Sour hienes falbe assuirit that the qualitie of the pledgis thame felssis will procure ane necessitie of the forderance of that wark, the profequuting quherof is nocht to refaue ony lang delay; feing be theis gentlemen quha ar commowneris thair is allenarly a aucht oulkis crawit betuix and the ischew quhairof it is vndertaken, that all that is promesit falbe performit. We mentionat of befoir to 3 our maiestie anent the

transport of fa many of that clan that are appointed for banishment, that ane fchip micht be fend hither. We mon maift humblie renew our fwite, feing all theifs quha are to depart, in quhilk nomer the laird him felf is ane, ar to be in redines heir, reddy to embark agane witfontyid, being vnable of thame felffis ather to defray thair chargis, furneis thame felffis of victualls, or pay thair fraucht. Siclyk it will pleis zour maiestie to knaw that the fubmiffione betuix the Lindfayis and Ogilvis was fubfcryvit be the lord Spynie and mafter of Ogilvy zefterday in our haill prefence, thay being fullie aggreit of befoir, and thair ar nane that hes nocht comperit bot the laird of Kerfs Rynd, and his fone, quha for thair abfence ar ordanit to be denouncit, and we haif flayit the lord of Spynie of onv taking jornay befor that that mater be fullie endit and put to ane point. In the yther directione, anent the erles of Orknay and Caithnes, we cold do na thing in that mater, be reffoun of the abfence of the ane being now in the north pairtis, and the vther haueing cum toward zour hienes, quha, without doubt, wilbe mowit fa meikle the rather to conforme him felf to that directione, if it be mentionat thair befoir his returne. for our pairt, fall tak ordour, that the partie refuser to submitt falbe difchargit to accompanie the queins maiestie. Sa, humblie intreating pardoun for impasheing your hienes, attending vpone your maiesteis ordoure, we humblie tak our leave, committing 3our graces facred perfone in the tuitioun and speciall protectione of the Almichtie God,

Jour Maiesties humble and obedient fubicatis and feruitours,

Jo. Prestoun.
R. Cokburne.
Fyvie.

ELPHINSTOUN.
MONTROISS.

Edinburgh, xviii May [1603?*]

[•] There is no date to this letter, but the allusion to the Queen's journey to England seems to place it in the year 1603. Balfour has put it up with the letters after October 1605, thus making its date 1606; but this arrangement is clearly wrong, as Lord Fyvie, one of the council, had been created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. The account of the depressed state of the Clangregor is very curious. The Highland Clans appear to have been regarded as intolerable pests by Lord Fyvie. See page 46.

XXVIII.-LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Efteeming na lefs by my dewtie to empefche zour hienefs daylie with frequent letters, then to omitt that quhilk may be inftlie required off me, to mak zour maiestie acquent at certane tymes with all speciall heads, ather concerning zour grace's estait heir, or particularlie committit to my awin chairge, I hoipe, God willing, in that to keep, fa far as I may, ane midde courfe, lipning alwayis maift in the moderation off zour hienefs gracious minde. First, concerning that it pleafed your facred maiestie recommend unto me be 30ur letteris, to entreate with the queens maiestie 30ur dairest bedfallow, to think and accompt na mifs in all was done be my Lord off Mar, his fone, or bedfallow, in thir accidents fallin furth laitlie at Stirling; in fa far as all that they did, had fufficient warrand frome zour hieness soueraine authoritie and directioun, qubilk be guid rason, nather thay could in ony point omitt, nor onye other with faif dewtie controlle; albeit, I have nocht before geinin zour maiestie onve coumpt off my pairt in that, because, that being present with the haill counfall at the treatie off these maters at Stirling, the 24 off this instant, I thouht be the counfalls lettir, zour grace micht be fufficientlie refoluit off our fuccefs in that; I wald nocht the lefs farder, zour hienefs war perfuadit, I omitted na thing micht lye in me, to have thefe maters mair foundlie composit; and hir maiestie to think that all that was done, cariet werve guid rafon with it. I past immediatlie after the refaitt off your hieness letter to Stirling, quhair first I dealt particularlie with hir maiestie als erniftlie as I could, and with all the rafons my witt micht furnifs me to that entent; nixt at the meiting off the counfall, I laid doune fik grounds and arguments as I thocht meiteft, to be proponit and infiftit on be us all comounlie before hir maiestie to the same effect; quhilk the counsall thocht fa fufficient, that as thay concludit best we fould goe all to gither to hir maiestie to propone and rason the same, sua thay burdeinit me to be the first proponer and rasonar thairoff: I entred indeid, and beganne that puirpoifs to hir maiestie the best I could, before zour hieness haill counfall, and was bettir followed nor I could beginne. Our anfuir and fuccefs

30ur grace has onderstand be 30ur counfals lettir writtin immediatlie after. I doubt nocht bot hir maiestie consideris and onderstands sufficientlie the best and the warst, and all the right and the wrang in that mater; bot the honour off the ending and finall composing thairoff, as off monie greatar difficulties, is referued to zour hienefs wifdome, and exceiding greate dexteritie in all fik caufis. At meiting with zour maiestie, hir hieness will think, efteeme, and doe in all that, and all belangs thairto, as fall pleas zour grace to direct, fignifie, or dispose. This I onderstand to be hir maiesties minde and resolutioun. As to zour maiesties aduocat's* pairt or mine in this, albeit wee haue had that honour and directioun be zour maiesties, to be as hir hieness counsalouris, in the haill cours off this befinefs, I certifie zour maieftie, wee haue bein mair fubiect to obey commandements and directions, nor weill hard or tane with in our counfals, quhilk wee wald neiuer haue geiuin bot to 3our maiesties contentment in the first place, and to the fulfilling off your hieness full will; and nixt to all quietness and tranquillitie, quhilk 5our maiestie has einer knawin our haill courfes to be maift addicted to, and as I am certane your facred maieftie will onderstand parfitlie at meiting with hir maiestie, quho knawis our pairts. I was at Dunfermiling quhen this flurre fell furth, and came nocht to Stirling till I was fend for be hir maiestie, being in extreimitie off seikness and difeafe, quhilk effait wald nocht admitt all that guid rafon might haue furnist to onve off us, to be faid to hir maiestie. Zour hieness aduocat chanced to be with hir maiestie present at the werie warst; be the cariage of fuim lettirs off zour maiefties thair the night before zour hienefs has had fufficient pruiff baith off his witt and guid behauiour of before; at fik ane tyme, in fik ane accident, to fik ane perfon, quhat could be doe or fay? His dew respect to 3our maiestie, and to 3our obedience, behouit einer to haue the first place in his minde, he was not ignorant off the great cair, and tender loue 3our maiestie has to hir hieness royall person: to dispute or contefte quhat rafon and wifdome wald urge off hir hienefs proceidings, was bot the way to incenfe her maiestie farder against all, and to augment hir paffion to greatar parell, quhilk he was certane wald have anoved 30ur

[•] Sir Thomas Hamilton, afterwards Earl of Melros, which title he subsequently exchanged for that of Haddington.

maiestie aboue all, and might haue been iustlie imputt to lake of discretion on his pairt. All being weyit, the best expedient was to comfort and encourage hir maieftie, to gif hir guid hairt; in fumme, phifick and medicine requireth then greatar place, nor economic or politic. Hir maiefties paffions could not be fa weill moderat and mitigat, as be feconding, following, and obeying all hir directions, quhilk alwayis was fubiect and dependit haillie upon 3our facred maiefties anfuirs and refolutions as oracles, to gif baith health and full refolution off all doubts and difficulties. This was his eftait, this was his pairt in the perplexitie off this befinefs, quhilk weill examinat be 3our hienefs oncomparabill wifdome, I am certane will neuer engender onve prejudice to his former deferuings, and extreeme guid will to zour maiefties feruice. I can nocht wyte my Lord off Mar being to hardlie tane with, finding hir maiestie fa incensit against him, by ony deferuing off his, or onye that aparteinit to him, to wyte others rather nor hir royall maiestie off all proceidings. Bot the decrees of zour maiefties fouerane minde will passe (I am persuadit), and go by all our pretenfis, and platts to the werye points off equetie and rason, and to the iust interpretation off all our actions. I have forgiet mefelf infifting fa meikil in this puirpois with zour maieftie, quhilk I proteft has greened me fa, that to have all memorie off the fame extinguist and abolift, I wald be content almost to be buried thairwith mefelf.

Jour facred maiefties maift nobill fone, Duke Chairles, continewis (praifit be God) in guid health, guid courage, and loftie minde, althocht zit weake in bodie, is beginnand to fpeik fuim words, far bettir as zit off his minde and tongue, nor off his bodie and feite;* bot I hoipe in God he fall be all weill and prencelie, wordie off zour maieftie, as his grace is iugit be all werye like in lineaments to zour royall perfon. Thair is ane laitt attempt fallin furth in Carrik, quhairoff I haue writtin at mair length to my L. Secretair, not willing to trubill zour hienefs with tedious difcours of fik onpleafant puirpois.

[•] Charles " was exceedingly feeble in his lower parts, his legs growing not erect, but repandons and embowed, whereby he was unapt for exercises of activity. Again, he was none of the grace-fullest orators, for his words came difficultly from him, which rendred him indisposed to speak much. But, in the flux of time, and when he began to look man in the face, those tender limbs began so to consolidate and knit together, as the most eminently famed for exercises of honour were forced to yield him up the garland."—Reign of King Charles. London, 1655. Folio, p. 1.

Ane thing reftis to me, quhilk I man tak the baldness to recommend unto 3our maiestie, as I have oft done off before, that is, 3our hieness Session and College off Iuftice, the speciall sponk off light, and sondament off 30ur maiesties estait, and now the only ornament off this land. I man requeift 5our gracious maieftie to be cairfull off the honorabill maintenance and preferuation thairoff, for gif it decay in onye forte, I will affure 3our hienefs, 3our royall authoritie and obedience in this realme will participat off all the accidents may onye wayis befall to that faitt off iustice: and because it is now presupponit be monye, zour maiestie is to reteine thair, fuim off our numbir, in cafe fa be, and that zour grace be to fupplie thair places with others, I wald 3our maiestie remembrit off that guid and nobill act, deuisit and fett doune off zour hieness awin deuys, for preferuation off the integritie off that houfs, that na dimiffion fould be refauit in fauorem, bot pure and fimpill, and quhen eiuer onye place fould vake in onye maner, zour maiestie fould present at leist three off the best qualified persons to be tryit be the Lords, and the wordiest refauit. As this act was maift wyflie, and worthelie deuifit be zour maieftie, fa doe I wifs it to be conftantlie keipit; and as thair is na thing in that houfs obscure or onknawin to zour maiestie, the greatest eilest amangs us, I doubt nocht bot zour maiestie remembris, is lake off knawledge and learning requifit to that place, quhilk I pray 5our maiestie, supplie be the guid qualities off all zour maiestie fall prefent in tymes to cuim. This is ane werve effential point off zour maiesties croun and estaitt in this realme, the integritie and worthiness off the subjects off that hours and counfall, quhilk maks me the mair inftant, and, parchance, importune to recommend the fame fa liberallie to zour maieftie. I am past all dew bounds in langfumnefs off my lettir to 3our maiestie, sa occupiet in wechtie affairs. My maift humbill and dew feruice remembrit, I will conclude this langfuimness with earnist prayer for lang and prosperous reigne to 3our maiestie aboue us, and to the warldis end, and to zour posteritie. Sua restis

Jour Royall Maiesties maist humbill and obedient subject and servitour,

FYVIE.

Edinburgh, 30 Maij 1603.

To the Kings maift excellent Maiestie.

XXIX .- THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Quhen, as I entir in confideration of this laite broylle fallin furth heir, guhairby nocht onlye zoure maiesties contentment thair is impaireit, and thairwith zour hienes forrow gretumelye procureit, bot alfo greit mater of greif is gevin to all zour liegis, that any fick accident fuld haif interuptit the full effence of our joye, 3it all humane thingis being fubiect to viciflitude, and mischances being often and commounlie with guide and happie fuccefs intermixed, I wald reft fameikle the mair aggreivit heirat, if I had nocht ane full affurance, that zour maiefties patience dois alfweill in this particuler, as evir it hes done heirtofoir, overrewll and obfcure any fuppofeit paffiouns; and thairwith being fully perfuadeit that zour hienes accept is this vifitatioun as Goddis gentle correctioun. And now hir maiestie, praiseit be God, haveing returneit to Edinburgh, the prince and princefs being with hir in cumpanye, intending the morne to tak jornay towardis Berwick, reftis as 5it vnreconceilit with the erle of Mar, quha hes maid his depairture towardis zour hines; quhais wraithe, if it be nocht appealit, be all licklychoode is able to produce ane necessitie of ane of these consequentis, for if hir hienes will be fatisfied, it is thouht that the conditious of that nobleman, guha be his fervice hes fa worthelve demeinitt, fall not answer to his expectatioun: And if hir hienes be refuifit of amendis, complayneing of hir conceavit offence, na doubt the vttering of hir discontentments will breid small pleasure to zour maiestie. Bot leift hir hienes wraithe continewing, fuld heirefter produce unexpectit thortures, I wald maift humblic entreat zour maiestie to prevent the fame, according to that prudent foirficht that hes evir heirtofoir kyitheit in zoure former proceidingis, and fuffer not this canker or corruptioun to haif any forder progrefs. Thair is ane laite mater fallin furthe in Carrick, the particulars quhairof remitting to the fecretaris informatioun, quha, at tyme convenient, will acquavnte zour maiestie thairwith; the counfell heir hes proceidit be chairge and proclamatioun of the accuftimat forme, 3it if thair be nocht force adjoyned to 3our directiouns, thair may fmall obedience be luiked for, at the handis of thefe quha hes bein heirtofoir, and as 3it remaynis outlawis. In this and findrie vther thingis, for feir of impafching 3our maieftie, I haif written at lenth to the fecretair, quha will impairt the fame as oportunitie fall ferve. And fa, humblie taking my leave, I pray the almightie God to accompt 3our maieftie the apple of his awin eie.

Joure Maiefties maift humble and obedient fubiect and feruitour,

MONTROISS.

Edinburgh, 1 Junij 1603.

To his Maieffie.

XXX.—EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI. 20 November 1604.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

Being informed that your maieftie is offendit with fik of the nobilitie as mett in the Inche of St Johnneftoun, at the laft parliament, to adwyfe by quhat meanes the chairges of fik as was chofen commissioners mycht be defrayit, I most humblie crawe your maiestie pardoun to purge my pairt of any misbehaviour vsit att that tyme, ather agains this happie vnion, or ony vther your maiesties intentioun: for in credite I persauit na difference amangis all your maiesties subjects thair conuenit, bot ane ernist intentioun in ewery way, vtering their weil affected hairtes to your maiesties service in the vnion: controuersie standing onlie concerning the taxatioun, quhairin the grittest number of the nobilitie seiring that the

brunt thair of should breid ane mislyking of the vnion amanges the commouns, quha, at na tyme, without regrait, ar inducit to any taxatioun, choifit rather to ferwe your maieftie vpoun thair awin chairges than call in dowbt your maieflies diffein, be impofing vpoun the commouns ane grit taxatioun, without the quhilk the commissioners could nocht haue beine honourablie outred; and if any man do vtherwyfe informe your maieftie, thay do finistrously traduce your maiesties best affectionatt fubiectes. Your maiestie hes to vey in this our affectiouns vnto your maiefties ferwice, nochte crediting calumnies of vnfriends, the fimple treuth being (in confeience) this quhilk I wryt to your maiestie fo far as come to my knawlege. Quharefore, I befeik your maiestie nocht to condeme me, indicta eaufa, nor to think any vtherwyfe of me, bot as of ane of your maiefties most loyallie affected fubiectes, quha, by my general allegiance, doth acknowlege myfelf, in particular, manywyfs dett-bound to your maiefties fauorable elemeneve in fik fort, that there is, nor can be, nothing more grevous to me than to viderstand myselff to be anywayse ecairted fra your maiefties favor, especially it being my grittest contentment on earth to be thocht of your facred maiestie as I am, and fall alwaves continew,

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient fubiest,

ERLL OF ANGUS.*

Tomthalloun, 20 November 1604.

• William tenth Earl of Angus. His adherence to Popery induced him to join with the Earls of Huntly and Errol for the purpose of obtaining the assistance of the Spanish King to re-establish the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland. He was seized and committed to the Castle of Edinburgh, 1st January 1593, but made his escape on 15th February to the north, where he joined the other two noblemen. Latterly he made up matters at court, but finding his religious opinions peculiarly obnoxious to the clergy, he left Scotland and retired to France. He died at Paris on the 3d of March 1611, in the 57th year of his age, and was buried in the Church of St Germain de Prez, where there is a magnificent monument to his memory. In the inscription on his tomb he is made to say—" Vixi cum virtute et in spatiis me exercui maximarum laudum:

XXXI .- THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS JOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MICHTIE, AND IMPERIALL MAIESTIE,

To excus my baldness in taking this occasion to give 3our most excellent maiestie maist humbill thankis, for the lettres quhilk it hes plefit zour michtie maiestie to wreit in my fauours to the confell heir, and ministrie, to keip me from excommunication, quharby I reft euer mair and mair det-bound in all humilitie and affectioun to ferne zour most excellent maiestie; zit I find the ministrie beir the mair malicious againis me, the mair zour most michtie maiestie wreittis in my fauours, for they haue prefentlie fummonit me to Abirdein to the fecond day of Januar, mening that day to proceid againis me and my uyf, not regairding 3our most excellent maieftis will, and thay ar plainlie boith fafting and preiching maliciuslie againis the union of the kingdomes, quairby zour most michtie maiestie may judge thair mening, quhill of affectioun and denetie I am bound not to confeill the famin from 3our most excellent maiestie, and gif I haid that honour as to kis zour most michtie maiestis hand, I culd inform mair amplie of thair euill and feditious mening: alwayis for my auin pairt, I haue my onlie refuge to befeik zour most excellent maiestie to exime me, my wyf and familie, from thaeme altogidder, for ane zeir,

nt in sanctissima atavorum religione in Deum: Obsequio in Regem: Amore in Patriam: Charitate erga meos: Bonitate in omnes, nemini cederem. Ne qui primus eram regni Scotorum Comes, et in bellis primæ Dux aciei, uspiam forem in secundis. Hinc omnia tam pro voto fauste, ut in sacris et civilhus morem majorum retinuerim: et jussus religionis causa, patria excedere aut in custodiam pergere, vitæ quietiori turbinibus averruncandis delegerim Galliam, caram alteram Scotis patriam: mihi vero carissimam, quod in ea, pro ea, meos meminerim majores, bellica claros gloria, res gessisse maximas: et pro meritis factisque fortibus sic ils relatam gratiam, ut Ducatu ornarentur Turonensi." A copy of this inscription is given in the Scots Magazine for March 1767, p. 118.

[.] George sixth Earl, and first Marquis of Huntly.

till zour most miehtie maiestie fattill the Union, and sum richt reull unto thaeme, or than I wilbe forsit to us my licens, and my felf, uyf and familie to leiue the contrey, quhilk I will do, befor I be offensiue unto zour most michtie maiestie in onie point; beseiking zour most excellent maiestie to put me to sum folid stand, that I may be quit of thair cummer; for gif zour most michtie maiestie friis me not from thair jurisdiction, I man quit the contrey, rather nor be daylie trublit as I am presentlie.

I onderstand alfua, be ane lettre quhilk I have refauit from my lord of Bamirrinou, that zour most excellent maiestie uas zit sumguhat communit againis me for my proceidings in Perth, the tyme of the Parlement.* I uill protest befor God, that I did nathing thair, that I thouht fuld have being offenfiue unto zour most michtie maiestie, aluayis gif zour most excellent maieftie thinkis that I have offendit in onie fort, I will maift humblie amend the fame, fua far as my fimple pouar may extend; for fen I haue euer esteimit my gretest uordlie felicitie, to depend upon 30ur most michtie maieftis fauour and gud continains. God forbid that I fuld los it be my auin doing, quhilk neuer falbe uillinglie; and gif zour most excellent majeftie thinkis that I have racleflie failit, I will maift humblie and uillinglie mend. Heirfor, I uill befeik zour most michtie maiestie to us me as ane, quha, in all humilitie, is halelie disposit neuer to be ane contradictour, bot altogidder ane follouar of zour most excellent maiestis uill, as I have ever beine heirtofor, and remits me halelie to your most michtie maiestis auin uisdom and memorie, to judge me quhat I haue beine. And gif it will pleis 30ur most excellent maiestie to grant me that fauour, as I may have the honour to kis 30ur most michtie maiestis hand, I will think myfelf the mair happie, not for onie fuit I haue to impech zour most excellent maiestie uith, bot onlie to haue it seine, that I have not lofit zour most michtie maiestis fauour and good continans, quhilk I will ener prefer to all uthir benefit: Sua, craining humbill pardon for my lang lettre, and expecting 30ur most excellent maiestis uill and ansuer, efter the kiffing maift humblie of your most michtic maiestis hand, I uill tak my leiue, praying the eternall God to preferue 30ur moft

[·] See preceding letter from the Earl of Angus to the King.

excellent, most michtie, and imperiall maiestie, in lang lyfe and maist prosperous renge.

Sour most excellent and michtie Maiestis humble subiect, and most affectionat feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

Huntlye, this 20 of Nouember.

To his moft excellent, moft michtie, and imperiall Maieftie, King of Great Brittaine, France, and Irlande.

[Indorfed.] Erle Huntley. 10 December 1604.

XXXII .- THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

Moist Gratious and Excellent Maiestie,

Althocht the parting frome my natiue foyll, frome my eftait, hous, and familie, bot moir than all of thame, the want of zour maiesteis gratious presence, be unto me ane just caus of exceiding greiff and forrow, zit the testimonie of ane guid conscience in all dewtie towards zour maiestie, and my innocencie of ony capitall cryme, ar confortis to me, that this zour maiesteis eommandiment is nocht so muche of ony just conceiuit malice at my persone, as of intendit chasteisment for my conversioun to the religioun presentlie estableisit, quhairof zour maiestie may be easilie persuadit, I wald most glaidlie condiscend unto for findrie respectis lang to wryte, gif I culd have thairto ony warrant of conscience. Bot this being improper to this present subject I omit the same, and haue resoluit nocht onlye in this poynt, bot in quhatsumeuer ells zour maiestie will com-

mand with the hazard of lyffe (my confeience being excepit) to undergo all perell may gene zour maiestie contentment and just tryal of my obedience. And guhairas I vnderstand of zour maiesties plesour for staying of my fecund fone,* now in Spaine, with me, the boy being fubiect to ane univerfall gute, and I being counfellit be phisitians to fend him to the baicthis in Loren, I will humlie entreate zour maiefteis gratious fauor that he may go with me for recouerie of his health, and I will heirby promeis, upone the leift fignification of your maiesteis guid plesor, to returne him bak to be disposit upoune as your maiestie thinks moist site. Sir, howfoever my religioun be the caus of my exyle frome zour maiefteis prefence, 5it fo far haue I bene heirtofoir, and ever wilbe, frome geving any pairt of zour maiesteis soueraintie to the pope, as I hald my felf justlie bound in confcience to mantene the authoritie thairof agains quhatfumever commandimentis he can or may give out in the contrair; and in teftimonie heirof, I have gevin my aith of allegeance, quhilk I vnderstand to be fcairflie allowit of fum of the preceifer fort and vrgeris of this hard cours agains me, and it will try that, gif that war burdenit thairof, that that wald ather maik ane direct denyell, or than maik fic constructions thairof as will nocht fland with zour maiesteis lyking. So, rewising I have atteint the favour that this letter may twich that princelie hand I wes fo defyrous to kifs, I moift humlie taik my leiff, praying God to give 3our maiestie lang and prosperous reigne, intending to leisf and die

Jour Maisteis moist humill and faithfull fubiect.

ERLL OF ANGUSS.

To his facride and moift gracious Maieftie.t

- According to Wood's edition of Douglas's Peerage, this second son was James afterwards Lord Mordington. The same writer calls the Earl's second daughter Margaret; but in the monumental inscription, alluded to in the note, p. 60, she is called Elizabeth.
- † There is no date to this letter. From the want of internal evidence to fix the period when it was written, it was not deemed expedient to alter Sir James Balfour's arrangement, farther than to place it at the end of the letters for 1604.

XXXIII .- THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

PLESE IT JOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

At a meitting of the counfall vpoun the laft of Januar, we had befoir ws the Marques of Huntley, and the ministers of the prefbiterie of Aberdene, anent the proces of excommunicatioun, intendit be thame againis him, quhairin, efter a litle contestatioun, thay ar be mutuall confent drawin to fome conformitie for the prefentt: Zit becaus at this prefentt dvett, that mattir could not ressaue a finall determinatioun, we have continewit the fame to the first of May nixttocome, to the effect, that in this meanetyme, your maiestie may be acquentit, alsueill be the marques himfelf as be the faid prefbiterie, of every particular circumflance in that turne. And feing the faid marques is myndet fchortlie to repair to zour maiestie, guha, we doubt not, will mak a relatioun to zour maieftie of all that hes procedit in this mater, we will lykwayis in all reverence, fubmiffioun, and humilitie, requeift zour facred maieftie to grant accefs and audience to fic of the faid presbiterie, as falbe sufficientlie inftructed and authorifed from thair brethrene, quhairthrow, eftir hering of baith pairteis, 30ur maiestic may be the better resolued thairin, and accordinglie gif zour directioun to ws, qubilk falbe profequated and followed oute. And fua, in all reverence, fubmiffioun, and humilitie, kifling 30ur facred handis, we pray God to grant vnto zour facred maiestie a long, happy, and profperous regne. Frome 3our maiefteis burgh of Edinburgh, the first of Februar 1605.

Jour Maiesteis maist humble and obedient fubiects and feruitours,

NEUBOTTLE.
HALYRUIDHOUS.
TRAKQUAIR.

Quhittinghame.
R. Cokburne.
Jo. Prestoun.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

XXXIV .- LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEAS JOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The eftats of this 50ur maiefteis realme, affembled the 6 of Junij, with great frequencie of nobilmen, prelats, commissionars of small barrones and burrowis, in fik nombre as the danger of the plague, quhilk was in all the cuntrey about, was no impediment, but th' affemblie was more frequent, nor 50ur maiestei has feen many parliaments, of quhome althocht many had thair awin particuler discontentements, 5it thair reuerence to 50ur maiesteis auctoritie was fik, as no apperance of any disturbance was utterit in all thair metingis. Jour maiesteis lettre was first red, conteyning both the commandement of the meting, and directioun of the materis to be entreated, wherewith all men was so weill pleased, as after thay had caused reid the same over and over agane, the maist of tham behoved to haif doubillis of it for thair bettir fatisfactioun, remembering with no litill ernistness thair most humble thankis to 50ur facred maiestie, and most harty wishes for 50ur maiesteis long and prosperous raigne.

Relatioun was thaireftir very gravelie and eloquently made by the chancellor of all the commissionars proceedings during the treatie, and fatisfactioun gevin to every man quho had any scrupule. Sum litel instance was made by sum of the most curious for publicatioun, and copeis of the principall, quhilk was resulted. In all the report, the chancellor omitted not 30ur maiesteis most loving and princelie cair of this 30ur poore cuntrey, quhilk gave no litil confort to all the affistants, in sik fort as many quho came thair exasperated upon calumneis and misreports befoir, departed in end weill fatisfyed.

Divers thinges war motioned concerning the eftate of the cuntrey, but generallie this ground was held by the maift part, that a conventioun might not medle with any thing that appearit to derogat, till ane act of parliament, or wherof, the establishing requyred the authoritie of a parliament: fua all materis of moment was remitted to the next fessioun of the parliament, to begin the 26 of November approaching.

The names of fik as war prefent, with the materis that war agreit unto, ar heirwith fent to be confidderit of by 3our maiestie.

These of the counfall, bishoppis, and commissionaris, as your maiestie has committed the bishoppis erands unto, at to meit the morne to resolve anent the nixt conventioun, and the names of thame that falbe wreting for.

Tuyfday the ii. of this inflant is appointed for voyding this proces betuix the Marquis of Huntly and Mr Johne Forbes, and ending the agreance betuix the Lord Maxwell and Johnstoun.

If it pleas God in his mercy, that we may be frie of the plague, we hoop that nather in the administration, nor executioun of justice, nor in the hole cours of the policie of the cuntrey, sour maiestie fall heir any thing, but that wherwith zour maieftie falbe weill pleafed; and if it fall pleas your maieftie to performe that royall promeis, quhilk your maiefteis loving fubiects heir of all rankis emiftly wifnes, and affuredlie lookis for, to honour and felicitate this zour native kingdome with zour princelie prefens, that zour maiestie fall find the Bordouris, Hilands and Yles, in fik a frame of peax and policie, the rest of the cuntrey in that wealth and stedfast obedience, that in mannis opinioun evir could have beene expected. These ar the fruits of zour maiesteis heroique labouris, quhill zour maiestie was amangis us, daily encressing by zour maiesteis grave and wyis commandements; wherin our greitest reioysing is, that we hoop affuredlie zour maiestie will not disdane to sie with zour facred eyis this new face of your ancienne kingdome, ftryving in vertuous emulatioun with any natioun quhatfoevir.

Thus humblic craving 5our maiesteis pardon for my presumptioun, I end with my continuell prayeris for 5our facred maiesteis eternell selicitie. From 5our maiesteis Pallice of Halyruidhous, in sum mesour renewit as the rest of the cuntrey, this 9 of Junii 1605.

Jour Maiesteis most humble and obedient fervant,

J. Balmerinoch.*

[•] Sir James Elphinstone, third son of Robert Lord Elphinstone, was created by James Lord Balmerinoch. He was particularly favoured by his majesty, from whom, according to Scotstarvet, "he craved the reversion of Secretary Cecil's place, at the King's coming to the crown of Eng-

XXXV.-LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

Maist Gracious and Sacred Soueraine,

Being arrivit heir within this twa davis, I could nocht bot think it requifit, and alwayis my dewtie, to gif zour facred maiestie suim accoumpt off the eftait off this zour ancient kingdome, and zit because I onderstand and knawis the same, is maist parfytlie and exactlie writtin unto zour hienefs be my Lord Balmerinoch zour fecretair, like as I haue alfo writtin all the special particulars to my Lord Barwike,* to be declarit unto zour facred maieftie: Fearing I fould trubill zour hienefs with doubill repetitioun off fashious and tedious puirpoifs, I will tak the bauldness for the maift pairt, to raport me to my Lord off Balmerinochis lettirs, and to my Lord of Barwikis informatioun to zour gracious hienefs, off fik as I have writtin to him. I have found the counfall and fessioun sittand in this toun, and the estait off the toun (thanks to God) rasonabill, guid, and free off fikness or contagion, albeit nocht without suim remainis off fuspicioun, and fuim leitill new infections spreiding about, quhilk be Godis grace and magistratis diligence I hoipe fall be helpit. morne is the day apointit for creatioun off the earlis be zour maiefties

land, which was the beginning of his overthrow; for the said Secretary Cecil wrought so, that having procured a letter which had come from King James, wherein he promised all kindness to the Roman See and Pope if his holiness would assist him to attain to the crown of England.— This letter the said Secretary Cecil showed in the King's presence, in the Council of England; whereupon King James, fearing to displease the English nation, behoved to disclaim the penning of this letter, and lay the blame thereof on his Secretary, whom, a little before that, he had made Lord Balmerino." p. 59. His Lordship confessed that he had transmitted the letter without his majesty's knowledge. He was sent to Scotland, brought to trial, and condemned to lose his head. The sentence was, however, not carried into execution; for, as the scandalous chronicler before quoted informs us, "he got liberty to go to his own house of Balmerino, where, being a widower, he got an amatorious potion of cantharides from a maid in his house called Young (thereafter wife to Dr Honeyman), of which he died," in anno 1612.—Staggering State, p. 61.

 George Home (subsequent Earl of Dunbar), created by James VI. Lord Home of Berwick, 7th July 1604. ordonance, thair is rafonabill noumbir off nobill men conueinit to the fame effect. We ar to aduyfe with thame that ar heir, quhat tyme fall be meiteft to be apointed for the conuentioun. My Lord Maxuell is alfo to be this oulk before the counfall with his freindis, for to onderlye the lordis ordonance, and 3our facred hienefs commandement in this langfuime feade betuix him and the Jhonftons. The greateft pleyars now in the Towbuith off this toun ar Jhonftons and Maxuellis, ane werye great and guid noueltie. The kirk materis gois rafonable weill, according to the directions off 3our facred maiefties wifdom, as I haue wrettin mair at lenth to my Lord Barwike. The Laird off Lawrefton attendis diligentlie, and obeyis refolutlie 3our hienefs commandements in thefe maters. Thus maift humbly taking my leive for the prefent, praying the eternall God lang to keip and preferue to us 3our facred maieftie, and 3our other half, with all 3our royall progenie, I reft

Jour facred Maiesties maist humbill and affectionat subject and feruitour.

Fyvie

Edinbrough, 3 Marche 1605.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

XXXVI.-THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I have noe farder occasioun to vryte vnto your maiestie at this tyme, bot to acquent your hienes with ane lytill accident fell furthe of laite befoir the Secreit Counsall, the lyke whereoff hes nocht bene oft feyne in that saite of judgement.

Ane called Alexander Cheyne was perfewed be a poore man dwelling under my Lord Glames in Angoufs, that he had cum violentlie in the night vppon him in his hous, brocken ane battoun vppon him and his wyfe in thair bedd, and belted the poore man him felff with ane fwoord belt, efter he had pulled him out of his bedd: The pairteis compered,the defendar denyed maift conftantlie the deid; the witneffes was navne other bot twa of the faidis defendars awin ferwands, and fome of my Lord Glames men, who could nocht be refaued witnessis, nocht onlye becaus thai war all as pairteis thame felffis (in respect thai war all nightbours of the toun, and affifted the poore man to the perfuite), bot alfo in refpect of fead and blood standard betuix the faid Alexander Cheyne and the Lord Glames, albeit the Lord Glames affifted nawayes the perfewte, nor came nocht to this toun, nor nayne for his lordship. This made the offendar foe bauld, that he feared nocht to faice the counfall, thinking the mater could nocht be provin againes him, being noe witneffis. bot his awin ferwands, whoe war actours with him in the wrong. Alwayes the counfall examined his two ferwandis feverallie; and albeit at the begynning thay mansweir the deid; nochttheles, be divers interrogatories, admonitiounes, terrors, and warieteis in thair depofitiounes, at laft the weritie was exprest out of thame. Whilk being gottin, and the haill maner of the fact discowered to the lordis, we called in the faid Alexander Cheyne, principall doar, and efter he was fworne wppon his knees (lykas we made him to fitt on his knees the haill tyme of his depositioun, to remember him the bettir of his dewtie), being admonished of the greviousnes off perjurie, whilk was far above the offence he was challenged wpon, nochtwithstanding he aboade stiff and stubborne at his denyall, and condampned himfelffe to all moste rigorus deathe and executioun, giff anye fic thing war; lipining certanlye in his fuborned fervands and pertakers, and in the platts layd amonges thame, concerning the denvall,

O cœca nocentium Confilia.

Till at laft, be confronting of him perfonallie with the faidis witneffis, his ferwands, and pertakers, he was conftrayned to acknowledge and grant

the haill weritie, with great repentance (albeit too laite); and declaired the haill circumftances of the deid, fubornation of the witneffis, and plat layde amongs thame, what ewirie ane of thame fould faye. The counfall committed thame all inftantlie in the justice hands, and ordanyed thame to be put the morne eftir to ane tryall upon thair depositiounes; and being conwict, the faid Alexander Cheyne, principall actor, for his perjurie and fubornatioun of the witnesses, in foe fowll ane fact and oppresfioun, to be headed. The ane of his witneffes and ferwands, whoe wilfullie and flubbornelie aboade be his falshoode, till he was conftrayned be the discowerie of his marrow to grant the weritie, to be handged, and the other wha first granted the weritie, and gaife greit light to the tryall of the haill actioun, to be fourdged allanerlye, and his lyfe faiffe. I hope your maiestic shall werye weele allow of our procedings in this, for foe does all good men, and thinkes that this shall be ane great terrour to all malefactoures. I affure your maiestie, the counfall tuke great paynes in tryall of this mater, and your hienes aduocat was als ftrait and quicke as onye man could be. Of all riotts or wrongs that hes cum befoir the counfell fince my haymecumming, thair hes bene fummar and prefent cognitioun tayne, and inftant pwnishement be wairding and fines. Thair is ane laite accident fallin furthe betuix the Maxuells and Jhonftours, about the hous of Newbie, and ane Jhonftoun flayne, or at leaft deadlye hurt. With all diligence we haif directed thair ane companye of the gaird, with ane herauld, to tak the hous, to chardge baithe the parteis befoir the counfall, and to prevene anye farder inconvenient. Swa, maift humblie taking my leife, praying the eternall God to continew your hienes in all healthe and happines, long to raigne over ws, I rest

Your facred Majesteis most humbil and loyall subject and fervitor,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburght, 23 Martij 1605.

To the Kingis most excellent Majestie.

XXXVII.-EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I restaued your gracious maiesteis letters from the Marqueis of Huntlie the 4 day of this inftant monethe, the whilk daye the faid marqueis arrywed first to this town, presented himselfe to your maiesties counfall, offered and promefed thair all dew obedience, as ewer he should be chardged or fend for. All the wyfest of this land, be great trawell and lang adwyfement, could nocht haif dewyfed anye thing fwa proffitablie for the establishement of your honor, obedience, peace, and good government off this countrie, as your hienes graive, wyfe, and circumfpect behaviour and vlage towardes the faid Lord Marqueis, at his last woyadge thair hes done; your maiesteis wisdome, alwayes great, in this hes bene admirable, with the gentle correctioun of ane, your hienes hes teatched to all the reft thair dewtie, and that foe fenfible, as I beliefe, for this lang whylle, thair shall nayne fall in fic ourfight, and he and all the reft shall beir the greater reverence and respect vnto your maiesteis authoritie, and to fic as your hienes committes the administratioun off your affaires in this kingdome. I have also fensive restaued ane other letter of your maiesteis from Mr Jhone Forbes, minister, according to the directioun whereoff, thair shall be lettirs schortlye directed from the counfall, for my Lord the Marqueis of Huntlye, and fome commissioners of the ministerie of that countrie, to trye the veritie of thais speitches. At thair comperance, your facred maieftie maift rafonabill and wyfe commandements, contened in the faid letter, shall be followed in all, and your hienes immediatlie efter adwertefed of the fuccefs of that procefs. counfall hes nocht thocht meitt to call the Marqueis of Huntlye befoir the tyme of the conventioun, whilk will be in the begynning of June nixt, because it wald haif bene verye trublesome to him, within swa schort fpace, to mak twyfe that woyadge, being bot laitlie returned from your maiestie. The haill estaite of your maiesties affaires in this cuntrie goes

(thankes to God) werve weell, and all is in great quyetnes and obedience. Your facred maieftie may be affured, giff thair war onye fmalleft aperance off anye flur, malcontentment, or anye maner of noveltie, we wald nocht fpair to caus the poaftes ryde thithar, and I wald ofter take the bauldnes to truble your maieftie with my letters, whilk I am otherwyfe laithe to doe, without fome relewant and good occasioun. Onye other particulars requifite to be remembered vnto your gracious hienes in your affaires heir, I wryte mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwicke, to be communicate wnto your hienes, as your lafur may best ferwe: for we haiff thir twa dayes keeped counfall in this toun, where befyde all other particulars, we haiff putt my Lord Maxwell to fome point in his feade, and hes tayne fome refolutiones with my Lord Ergylle, concerning the perfute of the McGregoures, whilkes haill proceiding is I haif written mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwick, to be impairted to your facred maieftie. The dewyfe, whilk proceedit from your maiesteis only wisdome of the mutuall commissions and commissioners upon the Borders proceeds (thankes to God) werve weell, and takis ane werve good fuccefs, to the great quyetnes and contentment of the haill countrie. I pray your maiestie excuse me, that I dare be fwa bauld, as to recommend vnto your gracious hienes good favour and countenaunce, your awin creature the Erle of Home; as I did perfonallie, when I had laft honour to kifs your hienes hand; for I heir, that he and all his kyithes als great obedience and willingnes in feruice as ony in that countrie. Swa, praying the eternall God long to continew your hienes in all prosperitie, and daylie to augment your grandeur, I rest

Your facred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient subject and feruitour,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburght, 20 Aprilis 1605.

To the King his moste excellent Maiestie.

XXXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI. June 22, 1605.

MOST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

As it is the cheif and principall point off his dewtie, wha hes the honour to beare charge in the Cowmounwealthe, to be ewer vigilant and cairfull in paines taking for dew administratioun thairoff, fo the proffitable actiounes of ane magistrat did ewer mercit and rapport ane heichar commendatioun, than ather good speitches, or tymous wrytts, howbeit, that baithe the ane and the other ar na less proffitable than necessar, and caryes with thame eche one thair awin prayse. The consideratioun wheroff (most facred fouerayne), as it hes ewer mowed me to preifs and indevoir myfelfe, rather to do than to fay weelle, and to be mair ernest in doing than busie in writting; sa now, lykwayes, it furneisses me baldness and reason to excuse myselfe at your maiesteis handis, gif, perhaps I have ather feymit, or heirefter may appeir to your maiestie, to be to flaw in vritting, or sending adverteismentis off all particulars; albeit in this fame, I hope nawayes to be fa fleuthfull as to neglect that dewtie, whilk tyme and occasioun may require. As now at this prefent, nochtwithstanding I have thoght it neidfull to adwerteis and acquent your facred maiestie with this lait uproir and tumult, whilk hes fallin out betuix the Lairdes of Edzell and Pittarro;* newirtheles, the mair ample and particulair recit off all particulair circumstances thairoff, I will remitt to my Lord Sccretaryes declaration, wha hes, I am certaine, vrittin the fame, at great lenthe, to your facred maiestie. Swa I have this onlye to fchaw your maiestie, that, in generall, the estaite of this land is futche (prayfed be God), to your maiesteis great gloir and immortal fame, and to the affured weill and joy off your maiesteis subjects, that almaift we may rather wifche and defyre the confervation and ftanding thairof, than any heichar perfection, or farder increafs of the famyne. Seing that, in plaice of the heiche contempt of your maiesteis lawes, of the proud

[•] In the High Street of Edinburgh. The fight lasted from nine at night till almost two in the morning. Several of the combatants were hurt, but only one man killed.

rebellioun, and maifterfull opprefioun, whilk was wount to regne in thir partes, thair is nathing now (at leift generalie) bot a fatled and quyett forme of doing, eche one peciable in his awin eftait, awaiting for juftice, and redie to obey your maiesteis lawes, and all praysing and admiring, in thair awin felicitie, your maiesteis good and happie governament; for the continewance and furderance whereoff, I fall labour, God willing, for my pairt, to doe all that ather the honour of my chairge requyres, or my dewtie bindes me, or my awin maist bent and willing affectioun to your maiesteis ferwice preisses me to, or in end, whatsumever your facred maiesteis preconcaved favorable opinion, may expect of me. Sua, praying the eternall God lang to manteyne and preserue your facred maiestie in all prosperitie, maist humblie taking my leiwe, I rest

Your facred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient subject and feruitour,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburght, 22 Junij 1605.

To the King his excellent Maiestie.

XXXIX.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 29, 1605.

My most gratious, sueit, Sacred Souerangne,

However I am fumquhat to laite in congratulating of your maiefteis laite happie delyuerie,* 5it I hoip the place of my abode being remote fra the ordinarye arryuell of aduerteifments, and the inhabilitie of my bodie being the onlie ftay of my nocht prefence at that laft confell day, will procure your maiefteis most gratious pardoun for my absence at that tyme, haueing since the first report of this mater euer wisched myselfe (if so, as prased be God of the contrare, that deuilische intentioun had takin effect), to haue bein thair also, to haue maid ane periode

[.] From the conspiracy commonly called the Gun Powder Plot.

of my dayis, thair being nothing that culd have bene expectit be my furveuing, bot worfe than a thoufand deathis. And thairfoir, vpon confideration of this hynous intendit treafon (quherof the interpryfers, no doubt, ar verie deuillis incarnate by conceptioun), far furpassing not onlie all former actis or intentiounes ever fince the creatioun, and fkairfe cumming within the compas to be crededit or beleived, that fuche a thing fo voyde of all humanetic culd have takin place, in any perfon poffeffit with reafoun, and feing thir advancers (not of any relligioun, as they furmyife, bot of the deuillis awin kingdome) hes cleirlie discouered thair correspondence with Belzebub, the head of thair churche, I am thairfoir most humblie to entraite your maiestie, to have a more warve circumfpectioun over fuche lyk pepile, who, vpon pretence of thair zeale to advance thair relligioun, gois about fuche diabolicall practifes, that, by your maiesteis fuorde of justice, they may be dispatched for Goddis eternall jugement, to thair proper hie temple, the bottomles pit of hell, the atteining quherof they have fo greidalic and haferdouflie focht. And as it is no fmall confort and mater of iove vntoo all your good fubiectis heir, that your hienes hes the happie benefeite of fo good, wyfe, and weill effectit confellors thair, quhoife cairfull diligence in the tryell of this actioun hes gevin fo good a proofe of thair deutefull affectioun, fo euerey one of ws wald humblie befeik your maieftie, by thair adwyfe and confell, to foirfie al poffibill meanes for preventioun of fik lyk heirefter, and to tak fik ordour, that fuche malignant spreittis, in humane schape, may not have the benefeite of braithing within your dominiounes, bot may be feeludit fra all poffibiletic to go about any fuche erand heireftir. And with randering thankes to God for his many former, and this laite mercie extendit towardis your maiesties, with prayer also for contenuance of his protectioun over your heignefs, I humblie kifs your facred hand, refting

Your Maiesteis humble and obedient subject and feruitour to death,

MONTROISS.

Halyrudhous, the 29 of November 1605.

To his most facred Maiestie.

XL.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI. JANUARY 21, 1606.

SIR,

It may pleis your maift excellent maieftie, according to the command of zour hienes letters, quhilks come to my hands zifterday, I falbe cairfull to prowyd ane terfel to the halk of Fowlishewch,* and falbe ansuerable to 30ur maiestie for the same, in cais the and terfel be dead: zour maiefties Mangrell falcone, quhilk I haif, fowld haif bein at zour hienes lang or now, bot that as my falconer was reddie to tak his jornay, thie contractit ane difeafs, quhairwith he durft not adwentewr to trawell hir, in respect of the great frosts and stormes. I wilbe answerable to zour maiestie, that shie has bein nawayes stressit, bot als weill treatit as any halk cowld be: Nather fall 3our maiestie suspect that I haif retenit hir for my awn pleffour, qubilk I fall newir compair in the greatest thing quhatfoewer with 3our maiesties meanest contentment, or am I able as 5it, ewin at this prefent, to trawell woun the feilds for any game. Alwayes how foin it falbe poffible that the balk may in any fort be trawellit, fhie falbe at 50ur maieftie with all diligence. She haid the fame feiknes the last zeir, in this same seasone, and was not frie of it qubill neir Mairche.

And thus not prefwming to be farther fashiows to zowr hienes, bot in

[•] Foulsheuch is a steep rock on the eastern coast of Scotland, about three or four miles to the westward of Stonehaven. It is nearly a quarter of a mile in length, and the height from the sea, which washes the base of it, is upwards of two hundred feet. A writer in the Scots Magazine (July 1808) says, "The rock, and the birds which lodge on it, are considered the property of the proprietor of the neighbouring estate, who lets them for a considerable sum of yearly rent to a tenant, who is called the heughman, and who is obliged annually to give the landlord a young hawk, from a nest of these birds, of an uncommonly large size, which builds in the rock regularly every year." From this extract it would appear that the particular breed of hawks so much esteemed by James VI. exists, or at least recently existed, at Foulsheuch.

all hymilitie attending 50wr maiefties farther commandements, in kiffing 50wr royall hands I tak leif, and reftis ewer

Jowr Maiesties maist luifing and faithfull fubiest, and howmill ferwand,

ERROL.

Perth, this 21 Januar 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maieftie.

XLI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1606.

MAY IT PLEIS 30UR MAIESTIE,

According to 50ur direction anentt the terfall of Foullsheuch, I shall obey 50ur commandiments fullie and in all points. I can nott, as 5itt, certefy 50ur maiestie quhither he be alyue or nott, bott vithin few days, I think, I shall go neir to gett the certintie may be had of so oncertan a mater. I haiue spokkon my Lord Marschall, quha says to me, he thinks he be alyf, 5itt vpon this I dar not affeure 50ur maiestie, bott

[•] Tercel or tiercel, "a male hawk, so called because it is a third part less than the female in bigness and strength." Phillips' Moderne World of Words. 1696. Folio. Gervase Markham terms hawking "a most princely and serious delight;" and in enumerating the different kinds of hawks, he divides them into long-winged and short-winged. Among the latter he includes the goshawk, and the tercel of the goshawk; and subsequently mentions, that the goshawk and tercel were used for flying at the partridge, pheasant, or hare. Countrey Contentments. London, 1615, p. 87. Lord Binning, whose premature death deprived the world of a most worthy and accomplished man, wrote a very humorous and clever ballad, entitled "The Jolly Hawk and the Tearsal," on the temporary loss of a favourite tercel belonging to his father, the Earl of Haddington, which had flown away to the Bass, but was afterwards discovered.

vill fend ain of my auin,* and shall leive naithing ondoun in that or any other thing 3our maiestie plesis to command me; sua, maist humblie kissing 3our facred hands, I euer rest

Zour Maiestis houmbill servantt,

A. Mar.+

Edinburgh, the xxi of Januar 1606.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

- The passion of James for hawking is well known; and that he was somewhat anxious to appropriate the best hawks of his subjects, is evinced by the following letter from him to Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, reprinted from the Literary Register for March 1823, 4to, a periodical work that has long since ceased to exist, and the numbers of which are somewhat rare:—
- "Right traist friend, we greit you hartlie well. Hearing that ye have ane gyir falcon, quhilk is esteamit the lest halk in all that cuntrie, and meetest for us that haue sa gude lyking of that pastyme, we have, thairfoir, taiken occasion effectuouslie to requeist and desyre you, seing halkis are but gifting geir, and na otherwise to be accompted betuix us and you, being sa well acquainted, that of courtesie ye will bestow on us that gois halk, and send her heir to us with this bearer our servand, quhom we have on this earand directed to bring and carry her tenderlie: Quherin, as he shall report our hartie and speciall thankis, sa sall ye find us reddy to requite your courtesie and good will with na lesse pleasure in any the like gates as occasion sall present. Thus, resting persuadit of your presenting us heiranent, we commit you in Goddis protectious.

" JAMES R.

- " From Perth, the first of March 1596[7.]
 - " To our traist friend, the Laird of Philorth."

Sir Alexander Fraser was the ancestor of the Lords Salton. He was knighted at the baptism of Prince Henry, and died at Fraserburgh, 12th April 1623. There is a portrait of him in Pinkerton's Scotish Gallery.

† Lord Mar "was called to a by-name John Slaits, the reason whereof some give to haue been called so by the King while young when they were playing at game. The King alledged he had slaited him, which is an old Scotish word, significing that he had outwitted him; and the King oftimes, when he writt with his own hand to him, designed him John Slaits, as his compellation in the beginning of his letters." Erskyn's MS. Memoirs. He died 1634, in the 72d year of his age.

XLII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND LORD BALMERING TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE.

Thair is fick bruittis past throught all this land, off some, indeid horribill, accufationnes against ws (for we think thame naa otherwayes our felffis), as the mater is now past concealling, wee haiff hard greate word that wee war to be challengitt heirwoon be your facred maieftie, and called to ane accompt anent the veritie off fik imputatiounes as is alledgit on ws. We haiff this lang whylle attendit wpon fome fignification heiroff from your maift gracious hienes, whose wisdome and justice, we are affured, will neiwer condemne ws onharde. Albeitt it be wydelie aneught fpoken, that the allegationnes in our contrair, and calumnies gevin furthe aganift ws, hes maid great impressionnes in your hienes mynde, we will naways beleiwe onye fik thing. This only we haiff thoght ws bund to, off dewtie, feing thair is fua mekle talke off this all whair, as we can naa langer milkenne itt; we protest befoir God, thay ar als great calumneis and ontreuthis, as ewer was dewyfit againes onye men; and faa fals, as the dewyfars and forgears thairoff shall neiwer be hable to fchaw faa mekle as onye apperance or lykliehade off the fame. What is farder requiseit to be done thairanent, we remitt to your maift gracious hienes wifdome and confideration. The thing wee regraite maift is, that the worde off fick impressionnes in your hienes mynde, or geving eare to fik onlyklie calumneis, is naa fmall hinder vnto your facred maiefteis ferwice in thir pairtes, wee haifling fic chairdge and burding in the fame as we haiff. The halding off this countrie in obedience, will neiwer want eiwill will and inwye off manye off the greateft, and this turne whairon we ar faa calumniat, broght ws mekill ewill will off the coumoun forte off the countrie also, sua that, giff it may be

thoght that wee be nocht certane off your maiesteis constant favour, bot may be sua easilie detracted and traduced butt farder, it can nocht faill to mak our authoritie and strenthe the lefs in your hienes service, whilk wee regaird maist off anye wardlie thing; and what grudge wee beare for doing the same preceistly according to your facred maiesteis directiounis in all pointes, as we haist done, wee doubt not bot your hienes knawes and onderstandis sufficientlye. Sua, maist humbly taking our leiwe, and praying the Eternall lang to preserve and augment your royall maiesteis estaite and grandeur in all prosperitie, restis

Your facred Majesties maist humbill and obedient subjects and feruiteurs,

Dunfermelyne.
J. Balmerino.

Edenburght, 18 April 1606.

To the King his most excellent Majestie.

XLIII.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

March 16, 1606.

IT MAY PLEAS 30UR MAIST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

That as next write God, the effait of my howfs hath ewir bein protectit and preferwit be 50ur hienes, against the subtill practifis of my fatheris last wyss, and my stepmother, * quhilks many 3eires befoir this tyme, hath bein cleirlie discoverit, and maid weill knawin to 50wr royall

Lady Agnes Sinclair, daughter of George fourth Earl of Caithness. She had one son, George Hay of Killour, from whom the present Earl of Errol is descended.

maiestie. Sa, gif the same sall not zit be wphalden be zour hienes princelie fawour, against the onquencheable malice of that same woman, and put in fewrtie be zowr royall power in this fame enfewing parliament, I can haif na affurance, but that both my houfs and my posteritie may perifie in hir falfhood. In confideration of quhilk great extremitie, I doe maift howmly craif zour maiefties pardoune, that I am forcit to be fa bawld, as be thees lynes to befeik zour hienes to affift me in that quhilk wilbe agreable both to zour hienes honour, and the fewrtie of that howfs: Quhilk, and my awin lyf alfo, fall ewir be maift reddelie bestowit for your maiefties ferwice, at all occasionnes. And as I am not of purpofs to offend your hienes with any tedious difcours, fa I doe maift hymillie defyr, that it may pleas 30wr maiestie, to heir the same fra Mr Alexander Hay, as lykwayes my hymill petitioune to zowr hienes, togidder with the forme of the fewrtie quhilk I defyr to be grantit be zour maieftie, and accordinglie directit to the parliament. And thus, in all dewtiefull regairds, expecting zour hienes gratious ansuer, I doe maift hymillie kifs zowr princelie hands, and maift erneftlie pray the Almychtie to haif zowr maift royall perfonne and princelie childrein, with all zowr maiefties maift werteous defeynes, in his bleffed protectioune.

Jowr Maiefties maift lwifing and faithfull fubicet, and hwmill ferwand,

ERROL.

Logealmond, the 16 of Marche 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

XLIV.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 13, 1606.

PLEAS JOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Quhereas the privilege of Conftabularie in the realme of Scotland, grantit be 3our maiesties most nobill progenitouris, of gude memorie,

to my prediceffouris, be law and daylie practique, hes bene to judge vpone bluide and bluidweit, committit within fic boundis neir to 30ur maiefties royall chalmer, and in tyme of parliament: Notwithstanding, it hes plefit zour maiesties most honorabill and Privie Counsell, to defigne and delegat judges be commissioun, for ordour taking with this lait accident, fallin out betuix the Erle of Glencairne and Maifter of Wentoun at Perth, upone the different allegeance and claime maid betuix the Chiefe Justice and me, anent the libertie of jurifdictioun, and affixing of court to that effect: Quherebe, the immunitie and friedome of my office is not only imparit, bot lykwayis the most sufficient argument of maniefefting my zeale to zour maiefties fervice, the abundance quhereof, at all tymes, bot chieflie in this parliament, God and honest men can beare record vnto 3our hienes. And theirfore, Sir, I am bold in all humilitie to beg zour majefties most gracious favour, be returning ordinance to the counfell, dischargeing the creation of the judges delegat; or, els that I may have the benefite of replegiatioun from the commissioneris as accordis of the law, and the authoritie and affiftance of the counfell interponit, to cleide with the ancient liberties of my office, anent the citatioun of the malefactouris to compeir befoir me in my Court of Justiciarie: in the administratioun quhereof, I fall have fik due confideratioun as my tendir care, and trew regarde to the furthfetting of zour maiesties honour and princelye eftate, fall be cleirlie publifched vnto the world. And thus craveing your maiestie most humble mercie for my boldnes, with my hart perpetuallie confecrate in love to zour maiefties facred perfoun and eftate, I tak my leive, remaneing to death

Jour Maiesties most loving and faithfull fubiest and humble fervant,

ERROL.

Logealmond, 13 of July 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

XLV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE EARL OF DUNBAR.

JULY 24, 1606.

Own dewtie rememberit, we have thocht ve cwild do no les nor acquent 5 our lordfhip of this twmwlt fallin owt in this townn of Glafgow, betwix the Laird of Minto 5 ownger,* and Sir George Elphinftoun,† proweft, whervpone the haill town almaift reifs in armes, and the gretteft pairt accumpaneit the Laird of Minto and his fone, quhome (eftir ve haid puit the proweift in my Lordis of Wigtoun howfs for his fwirtie, and haid commandit the bailgeis, in his maiefties name, to chairge the Lairds of Minto and thair complififs to thair lwdging, and had extendit all owr athoritie in his maiefties name), 3it cwild nocht fwa meikle preveill, that thei wald contein thame felffis in thair lwdginis, bot with greit difficultie cwild refift thame, on forfing the pairt quhair we ftwid to hawld of thair fiorce. We

- The Stewarts of Minto were for a long series of years provosts of Glasgow. The family is now, it is understood, extinct. Paton, in a MS. Memorandum-book, in possession of the Editor, has noted down—" There was an old family, Stewart of Minto, near Glasgow, as in the High Cburch of Glasgow appears from a funeral monument, on the left in the entry into the church, engraved on a copper or brass plate, where six or eight more generations, enumerated as knights created under the banner."—" Query, if true, the last of the family was a poor boy, who was sent into Edinburgh barefooted, with a letter to Stewart of Coltness, who [being] promising, was recommended to the Duke of Hamilton, who took him under his Grace's protection, got some education, and afterwards went abroad to Darien, where he died. The mother was of the Whitfoord family, and so poor, that she retired to a town or place near to Dalserf, called Miltoun, where she procured subsistence for herself and son by spinning."
- † Sir George Elphingston of Blythswood "was a burgess and provost of this town, he rose by the favour of King James VI. to be a great man; he was knighted, and made a Lord of the Session, and Gentleman of the Bedchamber. King Charles I. raised him to be Lord Justice Clerk, and he held the office till his death, which was in the year 1634. He got the Gorbals erected into a burgh of barony and regality; but behold the instability of human greatness: for he was the only burgess in all Scotland that I ever observed came to the highest office, and made the greatest figure, and yet died so poor, that his corps was arrested by his creditors, and his friends buried him privately, in his own chappel adjoining to his house." M'Ure's Glasgow. 1736, 8vo. p. 63. According to Scotstarvet, he "was in his youth in great credit with King James VI., and lay in bed with him many years, but was discourted by Sir George Honne (afterwards Earl of Dunbar) before the King's going to England." Page 132. He married Agnes, third daughter of Thomas fifth Lord Boyd, by whom he had a son and a daughter. The former died without issue; and the latter martied Colonel John Maxwell, son of Sir James Maxwell of Calderwood.

will wreitt fparenlie of thair infolent behaveour, aganis commandementis gevin in his hienes avthoritie, and mifregaird of ws quha hes the honour to be his maiesties confellors, will remit the tryell thairof to the avin tyme, quhan we fall declair the veritie of all theis proceidingis; and in the meine tyme to eschew forder inconvenient, estir we haid causit mak proclamatioun in his maiesties name, that all men swild repair to thair lwidginis, and the brwnzie wes fum guhat pecefeit, als weill for the mifbehaviour and mifregaird of the commandementis in his hienes name, and of ws execewteris thairof, as also for prewenting of forder twmult, quhille his maieftie or his hienes Priwie Confell might deliberat, quhat cwirs falbe takin for pwnifching and fatteling the famyn, quhilk no dowt gif it had nocht chainfit ws to be heir at ane particular tryift, wald have twirnit to greit inconvenient, and can noicht weill efchew zit, gif the famyn be nocht preventit. In respect quhairof, we thoicht meitest to chairge the Lairdis of Minto, elder and 30wnger, to entir thame felffis within the caftell of Dumbartan, withe all diligens, to [till?] his maieftie, and lordes of his hienes Privie Counfell, forder plefour wer knawin; and in lyk maner, Sir George Elphinftoun to entir in waird within the caftell of Glafgow: As alfo, to command the bailzeis to mak proclamatiounis, that naine indwellaris within thair burgh, offir iniwrie be onay maner of way to utheris, bot that thai fwild keip the kingis pace wnder the paine of deithe; and that naine of thame fwild weir wapinis invafeiff within the brwch, bot behave thame felffis in quyeitt maner, as thei wald be answerable on thair perellis: And forder, to chairge thrie of the speciallis on ather pairtie to entir thame felffis, the ane pairtie within the caftell, and the wther within the Tolbwithe of Glafgow, till forder ordour wes takin be the counfell. The fkyth is noicht greitt, onlye ane man callit Thomas Cloggye deid, without onye woind, and fondrie hwirt withe ftauis, quhilk wes to ws gretest impediment to stay thame. The Lairdis of Minto, as we are informit, ar paffit to Dumbartane, and Sir George hes enterit in this caftell, withe fick of his pairtie as wee commandit. Swa, haiving doine quhat ley in ws, to procwir his maiefties obedience and paice of this townn, quhair ve chainfit to be for the tyme, remittis to zour lordfchip, to deliberat quhat forder ordour falbe takin heirin, baith for tryell and pwnifching of this

ryett, and faitling thairof, will tak owr leif, committing 50ur lordship to God. Reftis

Zour Lordship asswred to power,

WIGTOUN.
MONTROIS.
KILSAYTH.

We have also acquentit my Lord Chainfeller thairwithe.

Glafgow, the xxiiij Julij 1606.

To my varie gwid Lord, my Lord Erlle off Dunbar.

XLVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 27, 1606.

Most Gratious Souerane.

According to 5 our hienes directioun fignefeit vnto ws be 5 our maiefteis faithfull counfallor the Erle of Dumbar, we did call and convene befoir the counfall the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencarne, and Glencarne and the Lord Semple, with a nomber of thair freindis, quhome we knew to have cheifest interess in the present feid standing betuix thame, and efter that we had declarit vnto thame the great panes and travellis quhilk 3 our facred maiestie tuke in 3 our hienes awin persone, for

extinguisheing of the name and memorie of deidlie feidis, what goode futtes had followit upour 30ur maiesteis travellis in some of the grittest feidis of this kingdome, and how that 3our maiestie had now recommendit to the counfall the removing of this feud, whilk hes bene of fua lang continewance, and be reflore of the minoritie of the Erle of Eglintoun, could not qubill now tak effect, we burdynit thame with a fubmiffioun conforme to the act of parliament. The Erle of Glencarne pretendit that thair wes no quarrell betuix him and Eglintoun, and that a fubmiffioun wes vnneceffar, and in end he directlie refuifit to fubmitt, becaus the fubmiffioun importat agains him a guiltynes of the flaughter of the umquhile Erle of Eglintoun, whilk he will never tak vpoun him, bot offeris him reddy to the tryall of the lawis for that flaughter, whilk tryall on his pairt aucht to proceid the fubmiffioun. We rememberit him of ane fubmiffloun fubfcryuit be him felff in this fame matter, agreable in euery worde to that whilk wes now defyrit, when this matter wes last in handis afoir the counfall in Februar 1604, bot he, flanding vpoun his innocency of that flaughter, refufit to fubmitt. Eglintoun maid no refufall, bot pretending fome excuife youn the fhortnes of the warning, he only craued a continewatioun to be aduyfit with his freyndis, becaus this wes the first tyme that euer he wes chairgit in this matter fen his minoritie. And the Lord Semple very frelie, for zour maiesteis satisfactioun and obedience, without ony ceremony offerit to fubmitt. We have grantit vnto Eglintoun, with his awin confent, the twenty day of November nixt, to be adultit with his freindis, and to come prouydit in that mater. We have no affurance of the Erle of Glencarnis obedience, bot the hoip that he will conforme himselff to zour maiesteis pleastour, and the Lord Semple wilbe obedyent. We had lykwayes in handis this proces of Glafgow, quhairin we haue fund a very great infolence and ryott committit be Mynto and a nowmer of the commouns of the toun, and hes committit the perfons guilty to warde within the burgh of Linlythgow, qubill zour maiesteis pleasour be knawne. This is all that we have done at this meitting, wherwith we have thocht meit to mak zour maiestie acquented, to the effect zour hienes may gif directioun thairin, as zour maiestie fall think goode, whilk we

fal profequute and follow oute. And fua, praying God to blyffe 3our facred maieftic with a lang, happy, and profperous reigne, we reft

Jour Maiesteis most humble subjectis and feruitours,

Montroiss.

Al. Cancells.

Linlithgow.

Wigtoun.

Elphinstoun.

J. Secretar.

Lynlythqw, the 27 of August [1606?]

To the Kinges moift excellent Maiestie.

XLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE* TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

It pleafed your maieftie to recommend vnto your eftaittes, at the last fession of the parliament, in this kingdome, the inhabitants of Dounbartane, that some help might be granted to thame of the haill countrie, to mak some desence to thair toun, agains the surgess and inundationes of the seas, whilk is lykelie to destroye and tak away that haill toun, and can not be desendit nor repulsit be nan moyane, thair poore habilitie and fortunes are hable to surneische. Theese whoe had

^{*} Upon the 6th of August, the Lord Chancellor addressed a few lines to the King, in which he says, "Yesterday, in great zealle and affectioun, we haiff all celebrat the blessed memoirie off your sacred Maiesties happie delyverie from the traitour Gowreis treacherous and devilische conspiracie, acknawledgeing all thairin the saiftie, preservatioun, and greatest evidents of Goddis providence, and favorable eyes ypon this lland, Empire, and Cowmounwealthe, that ciwer hes been schawin."

the commissioun to viseitt that mater maid thair rapport, that be good confideratioun and calculatioun, naa lefs nor threttie thowfand pounds Scottes was hable to furnische the charges to fic a wark. The Lordes of Articles, and others of the effaitts than convenit, thocht not meit nor expedient, at that tyme, to lay twa taxatiounes uppon the countrie, onder tua feuerall navmes, bot with good will granted the taxatioun or fubfidie, the greater vnto your facred maiestie, in hope that your hienes, wpon good confiderationnes, in your wifdome and wounted clemencie towards your poore fubjects, wald beftow fome portioun thairof, for the faiftie and prefervatioun of that poore toun. Whilk, at that tyme, the haill effaitts willed me to recommend vnto your facred maieftie, lykas, I doubt not bot my Lord Erle of Dunbar will schawe your maiestie at greater lenthe. And I hope your maift gracious hieness will direct some good prouisioun to be maid thairfoir, to the confort and contentment of your maiesteis poore fubiects of the faid toun, wha will ewer remayne your hienes maift bund and deuote oratours; lykas, I, praying the Eternall lang to continew your facred maiestie in all prosperitie and contentment, restis

Your facred Maiesteis maist humbill and obedient subject and feruitour,

Dunfermeline.

Nedrie, 4 September 1606.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

XLVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.
[October 1606.]

Maist Sacred Soueraine,

Thay have bene great maters, and heiche defeyngs, your maieftie hes had this fommer in this kingdome: And albeit your hienes princelie intentiounes hes not laiked thair impediments and difficulteis, whilk all alterationnes and nouelteis caryes, your dewyfe newertheles hes bene fwa wyfe, and weill grundit, and your inftruments faa fit, that all (thankes to God) is fucceidit at wiffes to your hienes contentment, and to the contentment off all good and peceabill fubiects. This I can not of my dentie omitt to testifie, that the Erle of Dunbar, be his industrie, trawell, diligence, and extraordinair movane, and credeit with the nobilitie and haill estaittes, hes maruelouslie aduanced the good success off all hes bene done: as he has bene trayned wp from his youthe at your facred maiefteis feett, hes eiwer bene a great observer off all your maiesteis vertieus, swa I think navne can ather fwa weill tak wp the drift of your maiefteis plattis, nor zit with fic dexteritie follow furthe the fame, eiuen to the utter poynt of your maiesteis blank, as he can doe, and hes gevin sufficient proofe at this tyme, baithe in the Borders, whilk he has fatled, far by once thing that eiwer hes bene done thair befoir, or 5it might be thoght habill to be done in fa fchort spaice, and in fic multitude off other great interpreifes, and alfo in the parliament, whair his behaviour with the diversitie off humours off our nobillmen and others, schew weell he had narrowlie remarked manye leftons and documents off your facred maiefteis proceidings in fic affaires. Bot this I am certane, will be declaired all to viour hienes at greater lenthe, and better nor I can vryte, be divers off your speciall ferwands, and officears wha ar thair prefentlie, befides that deid, and the event doeis furneis fufficient testimonie of his fidelitie, care, finceritie, and wifdome, in the governament off all thir affaires.

The prefent estaite of the countrie is maruelous quyett in all other nor this truble of the peste, whilk is spred, and does great harme in divers pairts, a mater to be recommendit specialie to Goddis mercie, in fua far as men can mak lytle support to the same. Some domestic afflictioun is sallin on my selfe, whilk I can nather dissemble, nor will denye, bot greives me mightelie, gist it war otherwayes I war onnaturall, senseles, and owir stoic. I hope alwayes it shall divert me from naa poynt of my deutie in your sacred maiesteis serwice. All shall be waited on, in sic affectioun, cair, and soirsicht as I can surneise, the mair diligentlie now, that I have sew heir at this tyme to help or supplie me. The counsal

thall be convenit at fic tymes and plaices as may be maift convenient, and your facred maieftic shall be adverteift off all proceidings in onye extraordinair accident. This, most humblic taking my leiwe, and praying the Eternall to preferue eternallic your hienes, and all your royall posteritie, in all blifs and felicitic, restis

Your facred Maiefteis maift humbill and obedient fubicct and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

[October 1606?]*

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

XLIX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.
OCTOBER 30, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

The fuffifance of this berar is fik, and fwa weell knowen vnto your facred maieftie, that I war in the vrong to importune your hienes with langer letter or difcourfe, in the proceidings heir in all affaires, or directiounes fend hither be your maieftie with my Lord Secretair, or with the berar. He faw and hard what was done in all, and can declair the fame to your maieftie at lenthe, better nor I can vryte. I hope your hienes shall think thair is als mekle done as can be in fic a tyme, for in all the corners off this kingdome this contagious fiknes is fwa spreadde, that nather broughe nor land in onye pairt is free.

^{*} No date, but from the reference to the plague, probably written in October 1606.

Mista senum et juuenum densantur sunera.

The tounes off Air and Striveling ar almoste defolat.* This estait and calamitie hinders all meitingis off counfall, and all publict functiounes for ministration of justice, and mantenance of good reulle and government. except fik as we tak at flarts, with fome few at Edenburghe, or in fik other place for a day, to keip fome countenance of ordour and cair off your maiefteispeace and obedience, whilk does mekle good for als fynderlie as we meitt, and fhall be fua continewed, till it pleis God to releive the land of this afflictioun. I haiff likewayes defired this berar to fatiffie vour facred maiestie in some credict deliwered to me, be my Lord Secretair in your hienes nayme, whairvnto he was also witnes; I find my felfe alwayes infinitlie addebted to your maiesteis favour and clemencie; bot I hope your hienes shall onderstand that these reportes has na grounds other nor malice, or inwye, whilk I knaw nocht how I can haif deferwed of onye man, except in a fincere, upricht, and direct obeying and following all your maift gracious maiesteis maift princelie and juste commandements. Whairin I intend newertheless to continew still even to my lifes end. Swa, praying the Eternall lang to preferue your facred maieftie in all prosperitie and good fuccess, I reste

Your facred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient subject and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Dunfermlyne, 30 Octobris 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

* In the Chronicle of Perth, p. 9, it is said that the plague raged in the south of Scotlaud from June to February 1603. In 1605, we are told that there was "great pestilence in Leith, Edinburgh, and sundry places." It came to Perth, August 29, 1608, "and continewit till May therefter, 1609, quherin deit young and auld, 500 persons." P. 12. The plague thus appears to have been almost stationary in Scotland for upwards of six years.

L.—COMMISSIONERS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 16, 1606.

PLEASE YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Having for obedience of your hienes letter bene prefent at the Affemblie of Lithgow as your maiefties commissionars, and thairin done oure most humbill and faithfull indeuors to fie all thinges grauelie and wyfelie proceidit vnto for the weill and peace of the kirk, quyetnes of the cuntrey, and dew obedience of your maiefties authoritie, according to the most wyfe and prouident directions and instructions fend to ws be your maiestie thairanent. Albeit, the great distractions standing this whyle bygane amangis the ministrie, and hard opinions alfweill preconfaued be findrie of thame, as by ane great number of your hienes vther fubiectis of dyners pourpofes hardlie intended agains the libertie of the discipline and policie of the kirk to be wrocht at this tyme, maid the beginning of oure trauellis full of doubt and difficulties, yet that bliffing of God, whilk ordinarlie accumpanies the juftice of your maiefties most holie and wyfe diffeigns, efter many appearances of great opposition to have bene maid to all that we could have proponed, kythed fo forcibill at this tyme, that efter oure declaration of your hienes conftant fauour to the kirk and all godlie and dewtifull ministers, and thair confideration of the acceptabill contentis of your most gracious letter directed to the affemblie, thair myndis wer thairby fo far chainged, that first thay ordanit your maiesties letter to be inbuked in thair register, and perfauing be the progres of oure actions, how great your maiefties caire wes to repres and puneis the papiftis, and to menteane the kirk in thair liberties, and ftrenthen thame with the power of your maiefties authoritie, the ficht of thair former errour, and of the vnexpected weill offered to thame in your maiesties name, maid the hail assemblie, and evin these, wha came of fet powrpofe to haue opponed to the power and laufulnes thairof, and to oure haill proceiding is thairin, to confent to all that wes concluded with greater moderation and vuiformitie, nor euer wes fene in any former affemblie. Whairof your maiestie will understand the particulars be the

actis thairof ordanit to be extracted and fend to your maiestie. Swa that in end, all that wer prefent, alfweill of the nobilitie, counfall, baronis, and ministrie having vote, as the rest wha came to have opponed to oure power and proceidingis, in ane voce gaue most hairtlie thankis to God for your maiesties continenance of your loue to this your native cuntrey, and caire of the weill of your faithfull fubicctis, and libertie of the kirk thairof, and most affectuously requeisted ws, in all thair names, to give to your maiestie most humbill, hairtlie, and vnfeyned thankis for the exceiding confort whilk thay have reflaved be the gracious effectis vttered at this tyme, of your maiefties conftant affection to this kirk and cuntrey, for the whilk, albeit thay can not offer or performe any farder nor thair former dewtie band thame to do, yit, we ar affured, that thay will neuer ceafe to wish to thame felffis the happines to have occasion to manifeste to the worlde how earniftlie thay defyre to mak it knawin be thair actions, and all that the frie and readie bestowing of thair trauellis, movens, bloude, or lyues can effectuat, how far thay think thame felfis bund beyond the ordinar dewtie of common fubiectis to thair prince, to expresse thair infinit loue, and humbill and faithfull affection to your maiestic for your innumerabill and daylie increffing benefites and fauouris to thame. And becaus we have most evidentlie sene this thair requeift to proceed of the fincere affection of thair faithfull hairtis, we have tane this bauldenes trewlie to recorde the famin to your maieftie at thair earnift defyre, hoping that your maiestie wald graciouslie accept it in gude pairt. Whairin humblie crauing your maiestics pardoun for oure prefumption, we beseik God long to preferue your maiefties lyfe and health, and to incres your hienes prosperitie, honour, and contentment. At Edenburgh, the 16 of December 1606.

Your Maiesties most humbill and faithfull feruands,

Montroiss. J. Lindesay. Sr. Johne Skene.
Jo. Prestoun.

BLANTYRE.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

LI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI. JANUARY 7, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

As it micht be condamned for prefumptuous importunitie, giff I fould jornalie with idle letters, truble your facred ees, or divert your princelie thochtes from weghtiar affaires, 3it doe I fear the cenfure and blame of fleuthe and fluggischenes, giff, in the estaite and rank it hes pleased your royall maiestie, abowe all merite or valour in me, off your onlie favour and benignitie, to place me, I sould nocht at tymes geive your facred hienes some accompt of the generall estaite off this your maiesties auncient kingdome; for, as to the daylie particulars, I doubt not bot be my Lord Secretairs* diligence, and other officears, your maiestie hes speciall informationnes, aduerteisments, and intelligence, with full satisfaction. The course of justice, thankes to God, is werie weele satted; and trewlie, I think, nather thair be, or can justilie be, ony complaint of wrang done, or 5it for laike of dew and tymous ministration of justice.

In the Hielands, the McGregours affaires lyis owir, partlie be the feafoun of the year, and partlie be my Lord of Ergyles abfence, whome we looke daylie for.

The countrie of Atholl, and adjacentis about it, throw the imbecillitie and weaknes of this Earle, and intricat estaite of that house, is now in warst rewll and ordour of anye pairt of theese countries, whilk was wount to be maist obedient of thame all; but your maiesteis Secreit Counsall heir is presentlie on the adwysement how to reforme and putt ordour to that pairt, whilk I hope shall be done schortlie, to your hienes contentment. All the rest of the Hielands ar in sic ordour and obedience, as we heir na complaint off thame, nor of naa insolence in thame.

As the first terme of the taxatioun, or subsidie, accorded vnto your maiestie be the last session of parliament, is approacheing, to wit, Can-

^{*} James Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino.

dlemefs, fwa is the charges for the fame going furthe and about, with all diligence may be required, in theefe officears. As it was maift willinglie and plefandlie granted, for maift just and plausible causses, I hope will be maift willinglie, thankfullie, and but onye grudge, payed be all good subjectis.

Thair is not fwamekle as anye talke at this tyme, in this countrie, off anye mater of eftaite, except it be fome lytle of thir churche maters, and of thair differences, whilks ar also marvelouslie fatled and quieted, and, be all aperance, will schortlie wear to a full conformitie to your facred maiesteis godlie and princelie difference.

After your facred maiesteis dewyse, and be your express directioun, this passed yeare the counsall hes composed and quieted findrie of the greatest deadlie seads was in this kingdome. At the enterie of this yeare, we are to beginne with the audest sead hes bene of thame all, betuix the Earles of Eglintoun* and Glencairne,†thair housses and haill consequentis, whilk hes ewer bene haddin assay last tymes bigane, whom the Earle of Eglintounes minoritie and less age. The 15 day off this monethe is appoynted thairfoir, and all pairteis on ather sydes summoned to that effect, and ordour tane for assurances betuix thame all, in the middle tyme, als convenientlie as might be. God send the success, according to your maiesteis ferwandis and counsalloures desire and affection, and it will be weell aneuche. I assure your maiestie, I shall omitt naa thing may by in my powar, ather be authoritie I have of your hienes, or be moyane credeit or freindschipt I have with anye of the pairteis, to worke that purpoise, to your majesties worthie and good intentioun.

What ewer anye may fpeik of me, ather in this or onye other vour

[•] Hugh, fifth Earl of Eglintoun. His Lordship married his cousin-german, Margaret, daughter of Robert Montgomery of Giffen, but having no issue, he settled his earldom on Sir Alexander Seton, son of Margaret, Countess of Winton, his aunt, and his heirs-male, whom failing, Thomas and John Seton, fourth and fifth sons of the Countess, and the heirs-male of their bodies; whom all failing, to his own nearest and lawful heirs-male whatsoever, bearing the name and arms of Montgomery. He died in the year 1612, and after his demise the honours were assumed by Sir Alexander Seton, and the reader is referred to the interesting documents in the Melros Papers relative to the ultimate recognizal of his right.

[†] James, seventh Earl of Glencairn.

facred majefties directiounes, in dew tryall, my pairt shall ewer be found according to my dewtie, fwa far as my judgement and possibilitie may extend, to follow and fett fordwart all may proceed from the ordonances and commandements of your hienes great wisdome, whilk I think newer to dispute off, or bring in contrauersie, as I conside affuredlie in your accustomat princelie justice and elemencie, that naa reporte shall ather prewaill, or hawe anye plaice, credeit, or access aganis my lawfull and vpright meaning and doing to the measour of my strenthe. This being all I can vrite to your majestic for the present, in all humilitie, taking my leive, and praying the Eternall lang to continew your royall person and your princelie posteritie to this warlds end, in all prosperitie, grandeur, and contentment above ws, restis

Your facred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient fubject and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburght, 7 January 1607.

To the King his most eccellent Maiestie.

LII.-LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fyftene of this inftant being appoynted for the dealing betuix the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencairne, the counfell, in very frequent nomber, hes been in no lytill bufynes to gett the pairtyis broght till ony conformitie; and, albeit the panes hes been very great, yitt the fuccefs of our laubouris hes takin away the memorie of our travell, for boith the principallis for thame felffis, and thair freyndis, and all the particularis that wer pairttakaris of that feid, ilkane for thame felffis, hes

fubferyyed a fubmissioun to fax on ather syde, or ony three of thame, viz. Eglintoun to the Lairdis of Drumlangrig, Garleis, Caruell, Kilfyth, Sir Johnne Bruce of Kincavill, and Andro Ker, bruther to the Erll of Lotheane; and Glencairne to the Lord Cathcart, the Lairdis of Glenvrguhy, Blair, Pollok Maxwell, Reidhall and Barrochane, with pouer to thame to chufe ane ourifman, who fall convene and accept the faid mater vpoun thame, the xxiiij of Februair nixt, and decerne thairin, within the fpace of thretty dayis efter thair acceptatioun; wherin yff thay faill, boith pairteis hes moift humblie remitted the composing of the hoill feid to your facred maieftie, to be fettled be fuche as your maieftie fall imploy as moift fitt for that purpois: vnder the compafe wherof not only is compryfed the Erll of Eglintoun, Abbot of Kilwynning, and divers other flaughteris accefforie to that feid, bot mony bloodis of great antiquitie betuix thefe houffis, thair freindis and dependaris, the not quencheing wherof did ftill fofter that peftiferous humour, whilk, in end, did burft oute in that cruell flaughter of the Erll of Eglintoun,* revengeit with no les rigour on the other pairt fenfyne, wherin the pairtyis being fo great and mony, and the rancour fo inveterat, thair wes almoift no hoop of one end of it, off the Erll of Dunbarris particulair dealing with ather pairty, and wyifs vfing of your maiefteis authoritie with great cair and dexteritie, had not terrifeit thame, fo as in end, efter mony nycht and davis werk, it is broght to a happy begynning, wherof we hoop the end falbe to the great peace of the cuntrey, and your maiesteis contentment.

Thair wes lykwayes fome dangerous heit and vnkyndlie diflykeing betuixt the Erll of Wigtoun and Maister of Montrois on the ane parte, and the Lord of Blantyir and Mynto† on the other; whilk, with the lyke cair and dexteritie vntroubling the counfell, the Erll of Dunbar hes reconfiled. And now, last, whilk is the end of these Glasgw broyllis, the

Hugh, fourth Earl of Eglintoun, succeeded his father in June 1585, but did not enjoy his title a full year, as, on the 18th of April 1586, when riding from his house of Polnoon to Stirling, he was attacked and murdered by the Lairds of Robertland and Corsehill, and others of the name of Cunningham, between whom and the Montgomeries a fend had subsisted for a long course of years.

[†] Stewart of Minto. The Elliots of Minto are a modern family, and the estate from which they take their title is in the county of Roxburgh.

particulair betuix Mynto eldair and youngair, and thair freyndis, my cofine Sir George and his followaris, is fubmitted to the Erll of Dunbar, wherin we expect no wer fuccess nor God hes gevin to the rest of his labouris.

In counfell wer lykwayes red your maiesteis letters, presented by the Bischop of Orknay, wherin, as the moist judicious of that nomber did acknowlege your maiesteis aune werk, so instead cheritable to sik as by lenitie may be recalled, not omitting, in end, the remedyis of disperat cures, exacting penalteis dew for thair dislobedyence, and irrogating panes for contempt; so, by the hole nomber the letter was imbraced with that applause and desyir, that the copyis of it fould be dispersed to come in the handis of all honnest subjectis, and the commandimentis contenit thairin fould be moist exactlic putt to dew executioun.

The lyk acceptance wes of the other, anent the moderatoris appointed by the lait affembly of Lynlythgow, and that all fuche as willinglie wald not conforme thame felffis thairvnto, fould be chargeit be the counfell in maner contenit in your maiefteis direction.

Twifday nixt, we haif the gentilmen of Athoill, and other cuntreyis bordouring thairto, for fetling thefe boundis, alfweill anent the brokin men of that cuntrey, as the Clangregour, who, howfoeuir thay ar become your maiefteis cofines, ar litill better manert nor befoir.

This is the foume of the last counfellis labour, wherin your maiestie may considder what hinderance is to your maiesteis feruice, when, by the plague, the ordinar cours of fitting vpoun your maiesteis affearis is interrupted, and what furtherance it is to your maiesteis feruice fometymes to spair the Erll of Dunbar to be with ws, whose disposition in your maiesteis feruice, as being sufficientlie knowne to your maiesteis felss, neidis not my recommendation:—and what terrour to malestectouris, and steidsaft hoop of peace and justice to all goode men that duellis ather within the boundis of the late marcheis or cuntreyis nixt adiacent vnto thame, this ouersight and begynning of imployment your maiestie hes layed vpoun him, over these officiaris, your maiestie will heir of otheris; so that, ys his body wer als able to suftene the panes of your maiesteis feruice, as his mynd is willing, and dexteritie rair to accomplishe the same, no imployment could be to him impossible.

In the fatling of thir materis of Glafgw betuix the Lord of Blantyr, Mynto, and Sir George Elphinstoun, the principall poynt is the repositioun of the gentilmen who wer brokin of thair placeis by my Lord Duke of Lennox, whilk your maiestie wilbe gratiouslie pleased to see performed; for all other thingis among thame ar composed vpoun the foirfaid conditioun.

The Erll of Dunbar hes putt Maister James Nicolsoun* and Maister Andro Lamb† to ane poynt, so I hoope your maiestie salbe als wele pleased with those twa bischopis as ony of the rest, and that thair labouris in that work sall not be improfitable. Sua, most humelie craving your maiesteis pardoun for my lang letter, I pray God to grant vnto your maiestie a lang and happy regnn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maiesteis palice of Halyruidhous, the xxi day of Januair 1607.

Your Maiesteis moist humble and obedyent fubicet and fernitour,

J. Balmerinoch.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maiestie.

LIII .- THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

Pleis your most excellent, most michtie, and Imperiall Maiestie,

Being honorit be the reception of your most michtie maiesties lettre, and hauing hard at lenth the Erlle of Dumbar's credit, I haue taine the boldnes be this present, to utter sum pairt of my mening befor the tym cum, nou that I haue to gif proof of sik simple feruis as I may do. I haue langit to be honorit with your most excellent maiesties com-

- Parson of Meigle, preferred to the Bishoprick of Dunkeld in 1606. He died on the 17th August the succeeding year.
- † Minister at Burntisland. He obtained the Bishoprick of Brechin in 1606, was translated to Galloway in 1619, where he sat till his death in 1634.

mandement, not for onie good that I can do in your most michtie maiefties feruis, bot onlie to have occasioun to utter that more than addettit affection quhilk I carie, and euer fall giff proof of, not onlie nou at this parlement, quhar my uot, and all that I may mou, fall euer be to follou your most michtie maiestis will, bot uith maist uilling hairt, salbe euer readie to uar my blood and all that will follou me, quhanfoeuer the occafioun prefentis, that it may gif proof of my loyall affectioun to your most michtie maiesties seruis; for I acknauledge my self far more detbound to your most excellent maiesties admirable constancie, by onie of my deferts, than euer uill ly in ane thousand of me till acquit. Bot forder, I can not gif nor that I have, quhilk is to gif proof that your most michtie maiesties thocht, gif I can knau it, fall euer serue me for performans of your most excellent maieftis plefour and uill, and I am forie that my lot hes cassin me fua far from my gretest contentment, quhilk is your most michtie maiesties presens; bot in affectioun I fall not be diffant, till I have that honour as to kis your most excellent maiesties hand, quhilk I lang for. The Erlle of Dumbar, I beleiue, will ureit mair amplie of my mening to your most michtie maiesties feruis. Sua, craining humble pardon for this my tediousnes, eftir the kissing maift humble of your most michtie maiesties hand, I will pray God to gif me grace to do your most michtie maiestie sum acceptable seruis or I die, for the monie fauours I have refainit, and to preferue your most excellent, most michtie, and imperial maiestie, in lang and happie lyf, and maist prosperous renge.

> Your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall Maiesties humble subiect, and most affectionat feruiteur to my last braith,

> > HUNTLYE.

To his moft excellent, moft michtie, and imperiall Maieftie, King of Greit Britaine, France, and Yrland.

LIV.—THE EARL OF ARGYLE TO KING JAMES VI. February 28, 1607.

SIRE, -PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE,

According to your hienes command, the Marques of Huntly and I hes mett, and hes appointed the xxiv day of Junj nyxt, for concluding the mariage your majeftic ordeined betuix his Lordfchips fone and my dochter, vhiche hes maide me fo bold as to entrait your hienes most humble to gif his Lordfchip foone leif to cum to this cuntrie, for the accompleishing the same; and thaireftir quhateuir pleiss your maiestic to derect concerning that mater salbe obeyed be me, su far as I am hable to accompleish. Sua, praying God to grant your maiestic ane long and prosperous reinge, I rest

Your Majesties most obedient subject,

ARGYLL.*

Edgell, the 28 of Februer [1607.]

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

* This letter has no date. But according to Wood's Douglas, Lady Anne Campbell was "married, in 1607, to George, second Marquis of Huntly, and had issue, and died at Aberdeen, 14th June 1638."



LV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

March 3, 1607.

Moist Gratious Souerayne,

Afoir the reflett of your maiesteis letter, concerning the Erll of Athoill, he had meanit him felff to your maiefteis counfell, showing how mony great and weghtie adois he had in handis, tuicheing the eftate of his house, wherin he could tak no folide ordour during the tyme of his warde. The counfaill knowing a parte thairof, and mony of the extremiteis whervnto he is redactit, thay transportit his warde fra the castell to the burgh of Edinburgh, vpoun goode cautioun of xxxxm merkis for his remaning and keiping warde thairin whill be be fred.* This band fall ly aboue his head whill the difordourit eftate of Athoill be fetled. Thair hes bene a preuey dealing be fome of your maiefteis counfell, anent the apprehenfioun of Johnne Dow M'Gillichallum, and Allaster, his bruther; and your maiesteis chancellair delt particularlie heirin with James Gordoun of Lefmoir. This gentilman, in regaird of your maiesteis obedyence and feruice, by the earnift entreatie and foliftatioun of your maiesteis chancellair, tuke the feruice in hand, and haueing maid mony purpoiffis for effectuating thairof, whilkis mifgaif him: in end, he lichted vpoun the lymmaris, vpoun thet day of Februair laft, and efter a lang and hett combatt, and flaughter of fome five or foure of the principallis of thame, the faid Allaster wes apprehendit, and Johnne, being very evill hurte, by mirknes of the night escaiped. This Allaster wes the personall executour of all the murthouris contryved be himfelff and his bruther, and hes bene ane of the moift notable and maifterfull lymmaris that hes bene in the Heylandis thir mony yearis. Thair wes great entreaty, and mony fair promiffis maid be his freyndis for his releiff, bot the gentilman, his taikair, preferring your maiesteis feruice, and his awne honnour, to thair offeris,

^{*} See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 30.

and to ony futur event, hafaird, or inconvenient, whilk doubtles he will vadirly, he hes prefentit him heir, within the Tolbuith of Edinburgh, wher he is maid faft in the irnis, and falbe tane ordour with accordinglie: we hoip that his bruther fall not lang efchaip, and no goode meanis falbe omittit whilkis may entrap him.* And feing this gentilman hes fo far advanceit him felff in your maiefteis feruice, and hes red the cuntrey of fuche a maifterfull theif and lymmar, we wilbe bauld to recommend him vato your maiefteis fauourable confideratioun and rememberance, wherby he and otheris may be encourageit to vadirtak the lyke feruice heirefter. The tyme of our parliament being now approcheing, at the 18 of this inflant, we humelic requeift your maieftie to latt we knaw your heynes pleafour anent the continuatioun of the fame. And fua, we pray God to grant vato your maieftie a lang and happy reignn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maiefteis burgh of Edinburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.

Your Maiefteis moift humble and obedyent feruitouris,

Montroiss.
Al. Cancell⁸.
Lothiane.
Jo. Prestoun.

HALYRUDHOUS.
J. COKBURNE.
R. COKBURNE.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

[&]quot;This same month [February], Alexander Dow Mackgilleycallum, a notorious theiffe and murtherer, was taken by the Laird of Lesse-more, Gordon; his brother Jhone was hurt, and five of his men killed. He was presented to the Lords of Counsaill, and thereafter arraigned and execute." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 21. Edinburgh, 1824, 8vo.

LVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI. $M_{ARCH} \ 3, \ 1607.$

PLEAS YOUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

We, your moift humble and loyallie affected feruandis, haueing hard of fome reprochefulle speicheis vttered in the lower house, by some evill disposed spirittis, to the dishonnour of this your maiesteis antient kingdome, and that only your maiestie had stand to oure defence, we haif in all humilitie, by these presentis, presumed to tak notice of the same, and to yeald your maiestie moist humble and hairtie thankis, not haueing committed ony thing againis that flate deferving fuche iniureyis, and far les worthy of fo great fauour, as it hes pleafed your gratious maieftie to you haif by vindicating ws from thair opprobrious calumneis. It is no litill greif to ws till heir what just causes of discontentment ar miniftrat to your maiestie at all those meitingis, for enforceing that vnioun fo greatlie heated by thame, and fo litell affected by ws, except in that religious obedyence we aught to your maiestie, not to deslyke ony thing that lykis your heynes. And yff it may pleas your facred maieftie, without offence, to heir oure apologyis, in defence of the honnour of oure cuntrey, we doubt not to mak it knowne, be the trew recordis of bygane tymes, fence this Iland hes bene first inhabitit, that in no poynt of finceir christianitie to God, loyall obedyence till oure princes, inviolat freindschip with oure confederatis, and vnconquered libertie of our estate, we haif nevir bene inferiour to thame. And in the very fubicet of the vnioun, whairat thay pretend fo mony friuolous exceptionis, that thair advantage falbe euerie way greitar nor ouris, we wald be fory to be authoures of diffracting that, whiche your princelie wifdome and faderlie cair hes happelie contracted, haueing fo deeply takin in hairt, fo to vnite thefe two kingdomes joyned by nature, but by affectioun altogidder diftant, as no markis of diversitie betuix thame, till the efter comeing ageis fould ap-

peir; vitt we ar perfuadit, that oure just defence aganis these fals imputationis laved vooun all the natioun, not spairing your facred maiestie, nor your moift royall progeny, nor your moift worthy ancestoris, of a hundreth and fex kingis lineallie difcending of one flok, can not, bot in your maiefteis accuftumed iuftice, refave at your handis a fauourable cenfure; and vff in one meitting, ather privat or publict, wherof we had mony, about that fubject, fuche audience wes euir gevin till ony fpeeche, ather derogating to the honnour of that flate, or diffuading the vnioun (howeuir thair be amangis ws not a few of the best fort, who ar als aliene frome it as ony of the lower house, and hes moir just caus to be difcontented, with fo easie obliterating of bigane wrongis), latt it be till ws a difloyall pairt aganis your maiestie, and vnworthie of treu freindship aganis youre nyghtbouris; bot contrarie wayes, fick hes bene the diligent cair of your ministeris heir, vpon whome your maiestie is pleased to repofe the waight of your affairis, that knowing your maiesteis eirnist dispositioun to perfyte that vnioun, in all thair conferenceis thay haif labourit to extoll all the apparent beneficities we myght reffave thairby, and to conceale and fuppres the trew illis. In doing wherof, althought we haif reportit fmall thankis of thefe, who fo liberallie hes talked of ws, or those who, in so patient hearing, did cleirlie manifest thair allowance of all wes fpokin, yitt, your maiesteis princelie refenting our wrong, and vrgeing the tryall and pvnisheing thairof, is moir nor sufficient recompence, yff oure lyveis, and all oure fortuneis fould be endangerit in ony thing, myght yeald your maiestie satisfactioun: and yff (vnder your maiesteis correctioun, to the whiche we alwayes submitt our felffis) your maiestie wald be pleased to desist frome ony forder moving of this vnioun, and mak knowne to that estate, that the whole inhabitantis of the ile ar your maiefteis fubiectis, and that in all your feruiceis and imploymentis. vee will indifferentlie prefer those, whome your maiestie, in your wisdome, fall find moift capable; that your maiestie will vouchaif to grace ws with vour refidence amangs ws fome tymes, and feelude ws frome no fauour your maiestie, in your royall prerogative, may gif ws, and wherof we fall rander our felffis, by oure cairfull and loyall deferving to prove worthy, we doubt not bot thay fall require at your maiesteis handis, that whiche

by this enforceit dealing thay wald appeir to refuse. Bot this and all other thingis, tending to the libertie and honnour of this your maiesteis antient kingdome, we remitt to your maiesteis moist rare and princelie wisdome, humelie requeisting your maiesteis to tak in goode parte this our moist humble thankis, haueing nothing els to offer your maiestei for all your vndeservit fauouris, bot our moist loyall hairtis, whilkis sall nevir deborde frome the simallest of your maiesteis thoghtis. Thus humelie craving pardoun of oure presumptioun, we pray God to grant your maiestei, after a lang and happy reignn, eternall selicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edenburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.*

Your Maiesteis moist humble and obedyent feruitouris,

Montroiss.	Roxburghe.
LOTHIANE.	Elphinstoun.
Dunfermelyne, Cancell ^s .	BLANTYRE.
J. Balmerinoch.	R. Cokburne.
A. L[ORD] WCHILTRIE.	SIR R. MELUILL.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maiestie.

LVII.—THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI. MARCH 4, 1607.

PLEISE 30WR MOIST SACREID MAIESTIE,

According to 50wr maiesteis command, I submittitt the particular bluidis and contrawerseis standing betwix the name of Mongowmerej, me, and my name,† to seike freindis, as was schosin befoir 50wr

See Laing's History of Scotland, vol. iii. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, as to the proposed union between England and Scotland.

[†] Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 16.

maiesteis confaill, and the day appoyntitt be the confaill to conwene befoir thame to except the famen, qhilke day we haif all keipitt, and the jugis exceptitt, and ower clames on ather fyid was gifin in. Then reftitt the commoneris to agre on the owerifman, quhilke thay wald nocht do, and fwa it is cummen in zowr maiesteis handis, guhairof I am maist glayd, ewer expecting 50wr maiefteis moift gratiowfe fawour to me and myne, guha hes, and fall ewer carie maift ferwyabill hartis as we falbe command-Gif thair fall cumme any reportis of me to zowr majestie, I am sertane, according to sowr maiefteis wuntitt and moift grationfe custowme, I wilbe callitt to my awin accont; —I dowt nocht bott 30wr moift facreid maiestie will fwa fettill thatt turne, as heirefter thay be na cawisse of gruge on ather fyd, and that ewerilke ane of ws may joiffe ower awin kyndlye rowmes and pofeffiounis in all tymes cummeing. This erectiowne of the Abeffej of Kilwyneing, quhilke my Lord of Eglingtowne menis to fuite att zowr maiestie, will nocht faill to intertenej the feid of trubill amangis ws, for we wilbe all enterest thairby; and I protest befoir 50wr maiestie, I haid rather loiffe my lyf, or ony occatiowne war gifin be me to breke that wnitej guhilke zowr maiestej will command. I man crawe zowr maiesteis humbill pardowne for this my fascheowse lettir, and ewill wrytt. My moift humbill feruice prefentitt to zowr moift facreid maieftie, I pray the Lord to gif 50ur maiestie gud hailthe, lang lyf, with ane proffeperowfe ryng, in the feir of the Lord; fwa I reft

> Jowr Maiesteis maist humbill and obedyent subject, ewer redej to be commanditt with all humbill ferwice.

> > GLENCAIRNE.

Edinburgh, the fourtt of Merche 1607.

To his maift Sacreid Majestej.

Leithtin

• James, first Earl of Glencairn, a privy councillor, and one of the commissioners for a treaty of union between England and Scotland.

LVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VL April 7, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR GRATIOUS MAIESTYE,

This præfent is to give your maieftye most hartlye thankis for all your majestives fauors towards me, speacially for the constant continuance of your maieftyes loue with me, as it vas vount, affuring your maieftye, you have the man vho neuer vas nor shall, God willing, be found alterable in his duetifull affection to ferue your maieftye, as becomes him. If it fall out that I fufpend my judgment in fomething is proponed to me aff hand, till I got fuller refolution both to fpeak and to ftand honeftlye to that vhiche I fpeak, affuredlye it arryfes of no vnfound and altered affection touard your maieftves feruice, bot onlye off laik of foreinforming, whiche geues light and curage to men to doe; and vherewith euer fince I ferued your maieftye I haue bene made pertaker als foone as others: and for the clearing of this point, I referre myfelf to my Lord of Dunbars teftification, vho can and will give inft information to your maieftye of it. I heare that your maieftye is refolued to have the ministree of Edinburghe plainted, the estate vhereof is more miferable and defolat nor ony toune or kirk in Scotland, and vhiche is vorfe, the pulpittis ar fometymes possessed with yong people, and perfones vnmeete for that place, vhiche bringis the gofple and miniftree into a contempt, and will overturne all in end if it be not remeadit. The planting of it will doe great good to all the countrey, and help to amend mony thinges amiffe, and procure great forderance of your maieftyes feruice and quyat of this kirk, provyding the perfones be good teachers, peaceably difpofed, and weyll affected. I heare also that your maietive is fome quhat moued to have me placed there; bot, Ser, beleefe me, in truth I am not for it, in refpect of mony thinges in thame, and more in me, vhiche can not concurre weyll to make vp a good mariage

betuix vs. I need not to vse mony vordes with your maieftye, vho knoues vs both alfueyll as our felfis doe. I mynd, God willing, to teache enery Sabboth, where euer I be, fo long as I may, and to be readye in most duetifull maner to concurre in your maieftyes feruice, as I falbe employed; bot to take on the charge of a particular flock, and fuch ane flock, my heart cannot yeeld, and I hope your maieftye fall not burdin me with it. The bearer hereoff, Mr Peter Heuat,* is ane honest man, and your maieftye may reiofe in the planting of him, being ane of your maieftyes owne plantation there, and anfuring to your maieftyes expectation of him in all pointis, and can truely and fufficiently informe your maieftye of all particulars here; bot he is not, as he deferues, and as your maieftye appointed for his encouragement, ansured of his fmall pension assigned to him, vhiche is pitie, and wald be helped to put difference betuix those that ar your maiesties oune men and others. If Mr Jhone Hall,† ane honest man, and ane of your maiestyes owne planting also, and he war remoued, I wat not vhat fuld become of Edinburgh, your majeftyes cheefe toune her. Bot leafing those particulars, appardone me, Ser, to fpeak one word of the common caufe. Ser, at Lightquho, my Lord of Dunbar did good feruice to your maiestye, and by God bliffing his vyfe and canny forme of doing, he prevailed fo as I neuer fawe ane more peaceable and ordourlye affemblye in my tyme, bothe in the progreffe and end, as it vas, and therefor vas admired and praifed of all in publique

^{*} Author of a treatise entitled "Three excellent Points of Christian Doctrine. Edinburgh, 1621."
He demitted the ministry about the year 1615.

[†] Mr John Hall continued in the ministry until 1619, when he craved to be "dismissed with the King's favour, in respect of his age and infirmite of bodie, which he granted; yet he was not infirm, but he might have continued teaching, for there was no sensible decay found in his gifts. The truth is, he would not offend the King by not conforming, for fear of losing his pension; and on the other side, would have the godly belieav that he was averse from the latest novation. But they interpreted this forsaking of his station, after he had helped to set the house on fire, to proceed only from loue of ease, leasiness, and fear to lose some part of his reputation, when his gifts should begin to fail. So he left his ministry of Edinburgh without the people's consent, resting only upon the King's demission." Calderwood, 1678, folio, p. 723. These censures, coming from an opponent, are not entitled to much weight. The plea of age is overlooked, and infirmity partially admitted,—causes quite sufficient to account for Mr Hall's retirement.

fermones and privat fpeaches. The hope of taking order with Papiftis, and quyating of diftractions amongst our felfis be constant moderators, led all menn ioyfullye your maieftyes vay, and if that courfe fetled there be profequute, your maiefive may affure your felf of pace here during our dayes, that is, if Papiftis can be keeped under be your maieftyes authoritie foundlye vsed here, and the kirk censures be sufferred to have the awne place against thame, our pace will grow, ill tongues wilbe filenced, and all thinges will go calmely, to your maieftyes contentment. Your maieftyes glory hath bene, and is the professing and manteaning of the gosple of Jesus Christ, and all the vorld sees your maiestyes multiplyed præfermentis and præferuationes to arryfe of the præfence of Jefus, the Lord of this gosple, with you, and to tend to the præseruation and advancement of it by your maieftyes præferuation and advancement, tuo thinges infeparably vnited, fence your maieftye hade being. Lat thame, therefor, be compted your enimyes that will not conforme thame felfis to it, and God fall contineue his bliffing with your maieftye, and croune you with that incorruptible croune of glory in the end. So, most humblye taking my leefe, I commend your maiefties persone, familye, kingdome, and affairis, to the bliffing of God. From Edinburgh, this 7 of Apryle 1607.

Your Maiefties awin most humble and affectionat feruitour.

Mr P. Gallouay.*

To his Maiestie.

[•] Patrick Galloway was originally minister of Perth, but was translated from thence to Edinburgh, where he exercised his ministerial functions till his death in 1624. He married Mary, daughter of the Rev. James Lawson, also minister at Edinburgh. His son, Sir James Galloway, was created Lord Dunkeld, 15th May 1645. In a letter from Bishop Sage to Mr John Guillan (Catalogues of Scotish Writers. Edin. 1833, 8vo) he says, "While at Aberdeen, 4 years agoe, I learned that Dr Urquhart there has some volumes of a MS. history of what passed in his time, by Mr Patrick Galloway, who was famouse in King James the VI. minority and afterwards." P. 130.

LIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR TO KING JAMES VI. APRIL 9, 1607.

MOIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

Your majefteis letter of the thrid of this justant, anent the comptrollaris intentioun to exact custome of the outwarde and inwarde commoditeis exchangeit betuix this, your maiefteis kingdome, wes prefentit to your heynes counfaill, and, conforme thairto, ane act paft, difchargeing the comptrollair and customaris of all forder melling in that mater. Your majesteis vther letter, anent the misbehaviour of the Maister of Gray towardis his fader, wes lykewayes prefented and red in counfaill, and ane commissioun exped accordinglie to the Lord Haliruidhous; bot, in the meantyme, the Lord Gray, heiring quhat wes concludit be your majefteis counfaill in that mater, he directit his fone Robert with a letter to the counfaill, fubfcryved be himfelff, a nomber of his freyndis, and two ministeris, showing, that his petitioun, exhibited vnto your maieftie, procedit vpoun euill informatioun, and perfwafioun of fome perfonis, who lyked not of concord and peace betuix him and his fone, and, that all thair differences wald be fetled and dreffit with their awin freyndis, and, that your maiestie nor your counfell fould not be troubled thairwith, as be his letter, whiche your maiestie fall heirwith ressaue, may appeir; wherupoun the counfaill thoght meit to forbeir all forder melling betuix thame.

Thair hes bene findrie dyettis betuix Mr James Home and the freyndis of the Laird of Melleftanes, anent the fatling of that feid. Mr James feamis to be very penitent, and wald glaidlie imbrace freyndfhip, and mak fatiffactioun and affyithement, bot the Haitleyis pretendis mony excuiffis vpoun the abfence and minoritie of thair cheif, and, that divers of thame being removeable tennentis to him, can not enter into that treaty by his advife. Efter divers continuationis granted vnto thame, in end, this prefent day, a nomber of thame comperit and produceit a letter, writtin to thame frome thair cheiff, proporting, that he will only fubmitt that mater

to your facred maieftie, and nane vtheris; and thay, as alfua his curatouris, who compeirit with thame, following his opinioun, maid the lyke anfuer, and, for thair pairtis, hes fubmittit to your maieftie, wherupoun ane act of counfell is paft, and nothing reftis now bot Melleftanes awne pairte to be perfyted, whilk wald be done thair be your maiefteis directioun, and returnit bak heir to fuche of your maiefteis counfell, whome your maieftie will mak choife of in that mater, wherin thay fall haif the concurrence of the whole counfell.* The fubmiffioun betuix Eglintoun and Glencarne is caffin in your maiefteis handis, as, by the proces of the counfallis dealing with thame, whiche the Erll of Dunbar will fhaw vnto your maieftie, may appeir.

The Efteatis of Flanderis being debtfull in divers great fowmes to vmquhile Capitayne Achiefoun, for his feruice in the wearis amang thame, and his bairnis finding a warr fchip, pertening to the Efteatis, lyand in the harbory of Leyth, awaiting vpoun the transporte of the Lord of Buchcleugh, and fome companyis lifted by him, thay causit arreift the faid ship. This mater feamit grevous to the whole estate of maircheandis, who hes sa frequent a handling in these pairtis; and your maiesteis counfell haueing at lenth aduysit heirupoun, thay resoluit, that, in respect this was a mater of estate, wherin your maiesteis hes intereste, the arreistment sould be lowsit; and thay humblic crave your maiesteis resolutioun, incaise the lyke mater fall oute heirester. And sua, humelic craving pardoun of your facred maiestei for my lang letter, I pray God to blisse your maiestei with a lang and happy reignn, and eternall selicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the nynt of Aprile 1607.

Your Maiesteis moist humble and obedyent fubiect and feruitour,

AL. CANCELLS.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

[&]quot; In May this yeere (1607), the deadly feid and inimitey betuix Haitley of Mellerstanes and Home of Eccles, by his maiestics especiall command, was reconceilled by a comittee from the counsaill table." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 21.

LX .- LORD GRAY TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL. APRIL 8, 1607.

My Lords,

Heiring that his maieftie hes fend ane letter to 5our lordships of his honorable prvuy confell quhilk I vret to his maieftie, with command to tak tryell of materis betuine me and my eldeft fone, I thocht gude, fo schone as I hard of it, to derect my sone, Robert, in presence of fic our frinds as war heir for the tyme, quhais fubfcriptiounis ar with myne, to lett 3our lordships knaw that I vrett that letter to his maiestie at that tyme being euill informit, be perfuafioun of fum euill difpofit perfounis quha lykit nocht our agreement, and on thair informatioun, being transportit with coloir, the ordinar difese of eage, thinking that my eldest fone wald haiff vfit himfelf vtherwayis to me and my feruands nor he hes done: bot fen that letter was vrettin, we haiff fatlit all our awin towrnis amangis ourfelfis, and both I and hee ar content that giff ony questioun fall arifs amangis we heireftir, that our awin nearest friends fall judge it, without troubling his maieftie or zour lordships of his honourable pryvy confell, as att lenth the berar will inform zour lordships, fo it fall nocht be neidfull ony be directit in commissioun from your lordships heir for that effect to me.

Zour most lowing frend to command,

P. L[ORD] GRAY.*

At Fowlis, the 8 of Apryle 1607.

Mr Robert Rynd, minister at Langforgund, witness. Mr H. Mortoun, minister at

Foulis, witnes.

James Ogiluy of Balfour. WM. GRAY off Bandirren. DAVID MAXUELL of Cullerny. James Monorgound of that Ilk. P. Gray of Balgarno. R. Gray.

[·] Patrick, sixth Lord Gray, succeeded his father in 1582, and died in 1609. His eldest son was the celebrated Master of Gray.

LXI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI. AUGUST 21, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Schortlie befoir the entrie of our parliament, I reflaued fra my Lord of Scoone, your facred majefteis gracious letter, in a pairt teftifeing baith your hienes good rememberance off my foirbears good ferwice, and your fauorable and benigne acceptatioun of my awin goodwill and endewore to employe fic qualitie and giftes as God hes beftowed on me, at your hienes devotioun and command, with greater accompt thairoff, nor ewer I can be hable to deferwe; and in a pairt remembering me off my dewtie in all refpects and degreis.

As the first binds me in all dewtie to thankfull and cairfull ferwice to fa thankfull, gracious, and fa kyndlie a soverane, swa does the secund remember me, the weyght and importance of the burding I vnderly in sa honorable a charge, to ane sa wyse, grave, and weel seand prence, wha examinis and weyis all his subjects, and specialie his officiars actiounes, baith in sayour, wisdome, equitie, and justice.

I proteft befoir God, that, nixt to that dewtie I aught to God for my faule, and haill being, your facred majefteis honour, will and weell, is, and fhall ewer be, my first intentioun, and principall butt off all my actiounes, whairto my haill industrie and studie shall be directed in all finceritie and ernestnes.

I will not be curious to purge me of all imputatiounes, whilk naa man, in fic charges and fic diftance of plaices fra thair maifters fight, can efchew. I repose haillie on your hienes cleir perspicacitie, heiche judgement, and constant zeal to justice, whilk I am certane will newer condamne me, in the smallest enclein of your mynd, onhard and tryed, and in good tryall, I am ewer certane to preiwe my actiounes conforme to

your maift gracious hienes directiounes, to your will, plefour, and devotioun; for that hes ewer bene, and fwa, Godwilling, fall continew, my cynofura and leidar flarre, to follow and obey, in all humilitie, your prencelie wifdome in all deliberatiounes and conclusiounes.

I doubt not, bot the progrefs and fuccefs of all affairis in the parliament was fignifyed vnto your facred maiestie, at all tymes and occafiounes, be my Lord of Balmerinoche, fecretair.

In the middeft of the parliament, we celebrat verie folemlie the 5 day off August, the day of your hienes bliffed deliverie from Gowreis treasonable confpiracie, in the quhilk Mr Patrik Galloway* maid the fermone, in the heiche kirk, werie weell to the purpose, and discharged his dewtie to your majestie werie honestlie, geving to the haill auditorie cleir evidentis off the cair God had off your hienes preservatioun, for the speciall weell of his haill natioun; off your majesteis innocencie and good meaning; off the treatcherous intentiouns and behaviour of the conspiratouris, whilk God turned all miraculouslie to thair consustant to your majesteis (as his chosen serwants) weill, honour, and adwancement; for his text was the 121 Pfalme, whilk he applyed werie purpositie to this intent. This maist humblie taking my lewe, with ernest prayer to the Almichtie for your hienes lang and happie regne, restis

Your facred Maiesties maist humbil and obedient subject and feruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Dunfermelyne, 21 August 1607.

• See a letter from him to King James, p. 108. He was father of Sir James Galloway, the first Lord Dunkeld, whose elevation to the peerage gave considerable offence from the obscurity of his family; and it was remarked, "That though the King could make him a lord, he could not make him a gentleman." His Lordship, if we may credit Wodrow, had the gift of prophecy, for that reverend gentleman has preserved in his collections some very unintelligible lines, which he designates as the predictions of Lord Dunkeld; adding, however, that "others ascribed them to Napier of Merchistoun." These wretched verses were some time ago privately printed in a volume termed "Nugæ Derelictæ."

LXII.—LORD HOLYROODHOUSE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 25, 1607.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAIN,

As al 3our maiefties fubiects in general has mor nor caus to prais and magnifie the bleffit nam of thair God, vho, in al the tym of sour maiesties most happie gouernament, has had so many proofs of the innumerabl bliffings and comforts which has accompaniit 3our maiefties facred reign; fo I, vho, befyds the deutie and aleagans of an comon fubiect, stands fo far debtour to 50ur maiesties fauours, can not, without the imputation of the highest point of ingratitud, bot vith al reuerens, and in most submission affection towards your facred maiestie, akknowledge the fontain and origin of my vhol fortons to hau fprung from the ocean of zour maiefties liberalitie: and as from my infancie zou hau ben my vphalder, fo nou, in the lait preferment vhervith I am honourit, although vnvorthie of fuch fauour, zour maieftie has giuin as it var an neu creation, for the vhilk, fens natur has denyit means to prou vorthy of fo many benefits, 3et to fuppli al thos defects of judgment, knawledg, and experiens, and fens I can not do vhat I vold, I shal euer be affectionat to do vhat I may, and to facrific my lyf, and al my fortons, in 30ur maiefties feruic, and shal neuer ceas to pray for the continuans of an prosperus regn to sour maieftie, and for euer to sour royal progenie, and fo shall reft

Zour Maiesties humbl seruand,

Halyrudhous.*

The 25 of August 1607.

To the Kings most excellen Maiestie.

• John Bothwell, first Lord Holyroodhouse, was the eldest son of Adam Bothwell, Bishop of Orkney, who married Queen Mary to James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. Upon the 2d July 1593, he was appointed an ordinary Lord of Council and Session, on the resignation of his father. He was subsequently made a peer of Parliament; and this letter is one of thanks to James for the honour conferred on him. He died in November 1609.

LXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO KING JAMES VI. August 26, 1607.

IT MAY PLEIS 30UR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Haueing reffavit zour hienes lettre about the 24 of Julij, commanding me to attend the fynode of Clyddifdaill, the fourt of August, quhilk, being continewit to the 18 be reaffone of the parliament, I did direct my particular lettres to everie prefbyterie, willing thame folemplie to keip the fyft of August with thair slokis, gifing thankis to God (as moift iustlie we haid all reassoune, in memorie of fua greit ane blissing, as God, in his mercie, did grant wnto ws all zour maiefties fubiectis), by zour hienes happie prefervatioun frome that abhominable and moift treafonabill confpiracie at Perth; quhilk thay moift willinglie obeyit. caushit this haill countrey (speciallie these quhome off I haid commandement off all eftaittis) mak fyreis of joy, with all wther lauchfull takynnis off glaidnes. The 18 day, accoirding to zour maiefties directioun, I did keip the fynode convenit at Glafgw, and requyreit thame, accoirding to the act at Linlythgw* (quhilk I produceit and caussit reid wnto thame), that thay wald admit the archebifchope of Glafgw thair moderator, quhairinto, in the beginning, thay maid greit oppositioun, allegeing the act nocht to have bene concludit in forme, as was thair gifin out, and that the moderatouris of presbytereis wer aggreit vpoun, to continew for a tyme in the perfounes of thame that wer thair nominat, bot that of the moderatione of fynoddis nothing haid bene fpokin. Quhairunto I repleit, that to be ane accufatioun of honest men, namelie, the moderator and clerk of the affemblie, under quhais handis the fame wes extractit, quhilk being verefeit, wald mak thame infamous, and put thair lyffis in 3our maiefteis handis. Thairfoir, giff onie wald directlie allege it to be fals, and tak

 $^{^{\}bullet}$ See Spottiswoode's History of the Church of Scotland. London, 1677. Folio, pp. 500, 501, 502.

upone him the improbatioun of the fame, I wald, accoirding to my place and power grantit to me be 3our maiestie, mak thame fast, untill thay maid guide thair perfute and allegeance; quhairupoun thay fell frome the faid challenge, and defyreit a continewatioune of materis to fum fchort dyet, that thai myght be advyffit quhat to do: bot I denyit onie fic pouer to be gevin me be zour maiestie; and that I wald nocht go ane poynt beyond my directiounes. So as, in end, fynding thame felffis straittit with a prefent aunfuer, and haveing fignifeit to thame quhat command I haid for denunceing thame rebellis, and diffolving the fynode incais of difobedience, thay put foure of thair number vpoune the lyttis, and the archebyschope being removit by him felff, the questioun was movit quhidder thai wald accept him accoirding to zour maiesteis defyre, or proceid to the election of ane of thair awin lyttis, as thai haid bene accustomeit? The haill fynode (tua onelie exceptit) voittit to his acceptatioun. The tua wer Maister William Simsoun, minister at Dumbarton, and Maister Edward Bryce, minister at Drymmen. Maister William Simpsoun departit frome the affemblie quhen he faw the admissioun to proceid, with thir wordis, "That he wald nocht remaine in affemblie that wes moderatit be ane bifchop," and went away without returning. This endit, and the archebyschope haueing acceptit the moderatioun of the fynode, chois wes maid of tua of thair number to keipe the colloque at Halyruidhous, the first of September, namelie, Maister Johnne Hay, and Maister William Birney.* Inquirie was also maid of the diligence of the presbyteries in

[•] Mr William Birnie was born at Edinburgh, 1563. He was of the ancient family of Birnie of that Ilk, and was originally brought up as a merchant; but, having suffered considerable losses at sea, he resolved to turn his thoughts to the ministry, "and for that end went to Leiden, where he continued thrie years, applying himself to the studie of divinity, and, from thence returning to his native country, was admitted minister at Lanark by a letter of presentation from King James VI., dated at Edinburgh, the 28th December 1597." Memoirs of Family of Birnie, MS. in possession of Editor. He died 1619, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. His biographer gives the following curious notice of him:—"Att his comeing here, there were seuerall feids among his parishioners, as in other places at that tyme, and frequentlie the quarrels began soon after sermons on the Sunday; but as he was a great peace-maker, so he was a stout man, and upon his appearance with sword in hand, he had the happiness, by his authority, to dissipate the contending parties without manslaughter, and, for the most part, without blood." He was the author of a singular work, called "The Blame of Kirk Burial." Edin. 1606, 4to, of which a beautiful reprint, with preface by W.B.D.D. Turnbull, Esq., Advocate, appeared in 1833, 4to. He also wrote "A Tractat of

the perfewing of Papiftis, accounding to your hienes ordinance; and quhat remainnit in thair cenfureis amangis thame felffis, and wtheris thair affairis, wes, with greit calmenes, and ane wniverfall lykeing of all that number, fo handillit, that the moift fcrupulous amangest thame wer verie weill fatiffeit, and na affemblie this lang tyme keippit in better ordour, to all thair contentmentis, and that speciallie be the archebyschop, then moderator, his prudent and grave governement; fwa that, heirefter, I hoipe, quhair thair falbe fuche eftablifched to rewll and moderat under zour maiestie, zour hienes in all tymes heirester fall nocht haue necessitie of commissionaris, but raipe the fruite of your maiesteis langfum travellis. I pray God furnische to zour maiestie monylyke to him, haveing equall knawlege, with no les affectionne. As for my felff, it hes fua pleiflit God (nochtwithstanding of my waiknes) to blis 30ur maiesteis litle fervices at all tymes committed by your hienes to my charge, that it hes emboldnit me to offer myfelff of new with no les affectioun nor onie zour maiesteis subject, to quhatfumever fervice I falbe habill to difcharge, beleifing thair falbe found verie few or nane to withftand zour maiesteis commandementis, that ar euer feine to be godlie and moist reasonabill. It may pleis 30ur maieftie to pardone me, iff I do feme over prolixt to zour hienes in this lettre, the defyre I have to giff compt of all, conforme to the trewth, is my best excuis. I have also heirwith fent to zour hienes the extract of the act. Thus, beging at God to your maiestie lang dayeis, with incres of all hapines, and full accomplifehement to 30ur hienes greattest contentment of all 3our graces most princelie designes, I remaine for ever

Jour Maiesteis moist humbill, obedient, and affectionat subject and servitoure,

ABERCORNE.*

Blakistoun, the 26 of August 1607.

To his moift Sacred Maieftie.

Chronologie," which he dedicated and presented to King James VI. This work, which does not seem to have been printed, was preserved in MS. in the Broomhill Library.

[.] James, first Earl of Abercorn. He died March 16, 1617.

LXIV .- THE FARMERS GENERAL OF THE CUSTOMS TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 30UR MAIESTIE,

Our dewtye as fubiectis, our defyr to be zour fervantis, and our intentioun to augement the revenew of the twun, the fmalnes quhairof is a reprooiche to the kingdome, mouit ws not out off necessitie, fince none bott those who ar of abilitye and credeit could vndertak sik a worke, wpone a motioun maid wnto ws by the ryght reuerend father in God, our very guid Lord, the Airchebischope of Glasgow, to mak this offer off greater payement, to the valew off xxxviooo merkis a zeir, then was formerlie payet wnto zour maiestie; none could in schaw dislyk our guid meanning, muche applauding was maid to it, and maney offers of guid affiftance; wherupone we did vndertak, and hes fund fuirties, and aduancid fome of our payement beiffoir hand, being villing till continew giff we could find that patrociney in this actioun, quhilk your maiefteis awin affaires off reasone fould haue, quhairof we wer fully affured, so long as we had that most honorabill noble man, the Earle of Dumbar, 3our maiesteis moist worthie trew fervant, in the cuntrey. Bot otheris being now disapoyntid of that zeirlie gaine quhilk that haue off maney zeiris inioyed, wishing itt fould rather haue fallin still in thair owen purses than come to zour maiesteis cofferis, dois omitt no maner of way, whereby thay may veirrye ws off the chairdge, that fo by this affront quhilk falbe gevin wnto ws, all vtheris may be affrayed to ferve 30ur maiestie heirester, or advance zour profeit in any foirt: our onlye defyr is, to have the covenantis and articles of the contrake maid betuix 5our maieftie and ws to be keipit, and the impedimentis removed; quhairin, first, we do humblie intreat, that all contraversies concerning our customes may be refferred to the Judicatorye of the Exchecher, quhilk was the only competent judgment for fuche maters untill the lait bred confusioun betuix the fessioun,

and it did fuppress the Exchekker altogether. It is conditionet by the contrak, that no new exactioun nor impoift falbe impoiffit vpone the fubicctis to the prejudice or hinder to the tread of merchandeice, and now, by this lait grant off four pundis off every tun, within Edinburgh and jurifdixioun thairof, thair is ane direct breache of that article; and within few zeires zour maiestie will find the great hairme that fall infew thairof. By one contrak, we have the grant to be only fearchers during our tak; we defyr that conditioun to be perfoirmit; and in fo far as Barnard Lyndfay wald now acclayme ane auld lyferent gift of fearcheary itt is fo frivolous ane pretent, guhen he himfelf hes, fince the daitt of itt, exceptit voluntarlye tua temporary takis of the famyn, on efter another, as it dois manifeftlye schew quhat be the intentiouns off sum men quha vald countinance fuche ane vnrefonable demand, quhiche we do nocht respect so muche for ony benefeit that he can acquyr be retennyng off it, quhilk we do nocht invy, as we do justlie feir off the hinderance he may gif to the tred, for the evill will of ws quha hes takin the cuftomes ouer his heid, he formerlye being fermour: And this office of fearchearve being inftitut only for the behove off the customer, and no vaves to be a croice vnto him and the hynderance of zour maiefties benefit, as in this caice it will no doutt procuir, fould be healillye refferrit vnto vs, or vtherwayes this wilbe the last zeir that ony will tak it in ferme. Sum bruches off regalittye, pretending thair exemptage from payeing of any cuftome, fuche as Dumfermeling, Churchealdye, and Musfilbruche, fall schoirtlye becume the ftaple of all wairis in zour kingdome, and zour maieftie fall lois the profeit of 5our haill cuftoms, being ane grit pairt of 5our hienes revenew, the beginning of quhiche canker we do alreddy feill, and in our deuttye to zour maiestie, can nocht omitt till certiffie zour hienes thairoff, that thay may be in tyme difchairdgit. Entreitting, thairfoir, humblie, your maiestie to aduert to thois things, quhiche, houever thai may at the prefent hairme vs in fum foirt for our forvardnes in zour feruice, and villingnes till augment zour profeit, zitt will it be schoirt of that prejudeice, quhiche zour maiestie fall refave thairbye heirester; and, haifing fend thois tua off our number, to explain at more lenth to 3our maiestie, the hard crosses, and maniefolde impedimentis we ressaue in

5our feruice, we, in all humilitie, according to our bounden deutye, do pray for all happines to 5our hienes, and reftis

Zour Maiesties moist humbill fervantis and subiectis,

THE FERMOURIS OF 30UR MAIESTIES CUSTOMES OF SCOTLAND.

To his moift excellent Maieftie.

LXV.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.
FEBRUARY 6, [1608?]

Pleis 50UR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MICHTIE, AND IMPERIALL MAIESTIE,

Being this far on my journay, of intention to have prefentit my fone* unto 30ur moft michtie maieftie, and onderstanding be the Erlle of Dunbar, that it is 30ur most excellent maiesties pleasour, that I suld stay myself till efter the parlement, I mynd euer till conforme myself to 30ur most michtie maiestis will and direction, althocht my greatest desyr be to have that honour, as to kis 30ur most michtie maiestis hand; and seing that it is 30ur most excellent maiestis pleasour that I suld stay heir for ane tyme, the Erlle of Dunbar hes schauin me that sauour, as to be his presenter in my absens, and I uis at God, that his service may oe agreable unto 50ur most michtie maiestie, as I dout not of his assectioun,

George, the second Marquis, who, for his loyalty to the unfortunate Charles, of whose cause he had been an uncompromising supporter, was, on the 16th March 1649, tried, condemned, and on the 22d beheaded.

having more honour than he meritis, to be fua neir of bluid unto 50ur most excellent maiestie; and for my auin pairt, I haid that honour as to be presentit be his guideher unto 30ur most michtie maiestie, being ane youth as he is nou, and God forbid that my affectioun or loyaltie sulfaill nou in my auld dayis, to 30ur most excellent maiestie, of quhois constant affection I have fund sua monie fauours, that all the blood within me being uairit in 30ur most michtie maiestis feruis, can not corespond.* The Erlle of Dunbar, I hoip, will informe 30ur most excellent maiestie mair amplie of my pairt and meining, quhomwith I have conferrit at lenth this day, and fering to be tedious, estir the kissing maist humblie of 50ur most michtie maiestis hand, I will ever rest

Jour most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall Maiestis humble subiect, and maist affectionat feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Edinbruch, this faxt of Februar [1608?]†

To the Kingis most facred Maiestie.

- "After the King was settled on the throne of Great Britain, he governed his kingdom so prudently, that he keept them peaceable so long as he liued. The Marquis of Huntly was several times called by him to London to consult about Scotish affairs; and the last time he was called, being come to his presence, he desired his son, Charles Prince of Wales, to take Huntly by the hand as the most faithful subject (said he) that ever served a Prince, assuring him that so long as he should cherish and keep Huntly on his side, he needed not be very apprehensive of great danger from seditions and turbulent heads in Scotland."—The Pourtrait of True Loyalty, exposed in the Family of Gordon. MS. Advocates' Library, p. 417.
- † This letter has no date; as it mentions, however, the Earl of Dunbar, it must have been written subsequent to the 3d of July 1605 (though placed by Balfour amongst the letters of that year), when George Home, Lord Home of Berwick in England, was elevated to a Scotish Earldom. The Earl of Dunbar died 29th January 1611. In Balfour's Annals the Marquis is said to have sent his son to court, as commanded by the King's letters of the 15th Pebruary.

LXVI. THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI. FEBRUARY 26, [1608?]

PLEIS JOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Onderstanding be my good-brother, the Duk of Lennox, that it is sour facred maieftis plefour and uill, that I fuld fend my fone unto 3our facred maiestie, and albeit he be the gretest pairt of the confort quhilk I have nou during my uarding, 3it I will euer prefer 3our facred maieftis plefour and uill, till onie of my auin contentments, hoping that your facred maiestie will not be forgetfull of my auld affectionat feruice, nor 3it will lat me be ufit with fik rigour as the Puritins of this contrey intendis; for I proteft befor the liuing God, that I carie that affection unto zour facred maiestie, that I will hazard my lyfe and my blood in your facred maiefties feruis, athaer within your facred maieftis dominiouns, or againis onie foraner whatfumeuir. And feing in this I proofe ane deutiful and affectionat fubiect, I hoip 3our facred maieftie will not condificend to my uraik, quhom it hes plefit of zour facred maiefteis fauour to mak up, onlie for refufing to fueir that all is true that it plefis the Puritins of this contrey to affirme. Bot feiring to be tedious, I have impairtid the haill particulars of my affairis to this berar, be him to be declarit unto zour facred maiestie at greter lenth. Sua, humblie taking my leive, eftir the kiffing of 3our facred maieftis hand, I will pray the eternall God euer to preferue zour most facred maiestie in lang lyf and most profperous renge.

> Zour most facred Maiestis humbill subject, and most affectionat feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Caftell, this 26 of Februar [1608?] To the Kings most facred Maiestie.

See Gordon's History of the Family of Gordon, vol. ii. p. 109. Edin. 1727. Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 20. Edin. 1824. 8vo.

LXVII.-THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 1, 1608.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Zour maiestie hauing, vithout ony merit upone my pairt, bot upone zour maiesties gratious rememberance of the faithfulle devtie and feruice of my fathir and grandfathir, don to zour maiestie, and the queen zour maiefties mother, vith the graet lofs, not onlie of thair freinis lyuis, bot thair auin blud, banefment from thair cuntrie, ouerthrau of thair houfis, and hail fortunis, bontfullie grantit to me the erectioun of Arbroith, according to the infeftment of the fame given of befoir be zour hienes to my fathir vnder the Great Seill, and be 30ur maiesties letter vrittin with your royall hand, I thocht, and euer fall think, myfelf bund to your maiestie, beyond al thie subject is of this kingdome, amoinst guhom, nane hes refleuit fo great fauor vithout any defert of thair auin; and as this benefeit flouis frome 3our maiefties only guidnes, fo uil I euer affuir my felf, that your maiefties fauor will be unchangabill, fa lang as maift humil deutie and feruice fall not fail in me; vhairof being giltles in my hairt, quhilk hes conftantly auouit rather to die, nor to giue entrie to any undeutifull thocht, I hop zour maiestie vil graciouslie be plesd, uithout offence, to permit me to regraet, that it is heir gifun out, that 3our maiestie fould have comandit my infeftment to be stayit unexped, till the Laird of Pamuir+ and fum otheris obtein fatiffactioun, in fik futtis as thay

James, second Marquis of Hamilton. Created Earl of Cambridge in England, 16th June 1619;
 installed a Knight of the Garter, 7th July 1623;
 and died at Whitehall, 2d March 1625,
 in the 36th year of his age.

[†] Patrick Maule of Panmure. Created by Charles I. Earl of Panmure, Lord Maule of Brechin and Navar, 3d August 1646.

mak to my difgrace and prejudice, becaus thay informit zour maiestie, that I respect not as becumis me zour maiesties benefite, quhan I resuis to give tham ane fether of the guife whilk zour maieftie hes fo graciouslie giuin me: vheras, if that quhilk is crauit ver bot ane fether, it ver great madnes in me to mak any ceremonie in granting, bote zour maiestie having ordanit the ministeris to have thair local stipendis, and ane blanche deutie to be modifiet to be pyed to zour maiestie, that living uald thairby be reducit to fuch eftate, as uil hardly furnice me mentinance in the rank vhairuith zour maiestie hes bein plesit to honour the hous, auhilk for the prefent, I unuorthelie posses; and gif that respect maid me, not fumuuhat careful of meanis to liue in that rank, I fould rather trail ane pik in the fardest pairt in the vordil, nor contend vith the meanest that could be habil to purchas zour maiesties recommendatioun; bot nou hauing meikil ado, and my estait being graetlier burdenit nor it may veil bear, I houp and humlie defyre, that 3our maieftie, at this tyme, vald continou 3our most gratious fauour towardis me, and fuffer that henefiet to be affectual, the grant quhairof proceids of zour maiefties royal bounti, and gratious opinioun of the merit and feruice of my predifeffors befoir I vas borne, guhom I fall ftryue to equal, and, gif it ver possebil, to exceid in al faithful, humil, constant, euerieuey devutiful feruice to zour maiestie. And at Sanionistoun, I satisfiet the Laird of Pamuir in fecuriti of his auin teindis, according to the command of zour maiesties letter, than fend for that effect; fua, guhan tyme and zour maiefties gratious fauour fall mend my means and eftait, zour maieftie fall dispois upon quhat farder zour maiestie fal than find that I can posseblie do, uithout my utir ruynd, quhilk I knau affuritly zour maiestie vil preuent in zour infinit gudnes, the gratious effectis vhairof alreddie reffeuit, geuis me affurance that sour maieftie vil accept in guid pairt, ane treu declaratioun of the verie effait of that hail mater be my brother Sir Johne Hamiltoun, vhom I have exprefile directit for that purpois. Hoping zour maiestie vil gratiouslie heir and credit him, and be hime returne that fignificatioun of your maiefties gratious and princelie vil, quhilk may mak 30ur maiesties former benefite effectual to me, and me abil to serve zour maiestie in the rank of my predicessuris, as I fall be villing, vith maift faithful and reddie affectioun to biftou that, and al the reft that God hes given me vith my blude, lyf, and freins in your maiefties feruice, according to thair commendabil exempilis, vhairof I fal be moir glad to give provif nor promeis, and fal daylie defyr the occasioun to perform the fame, vith als guid hairt as emistly I befeik God to grant your facred maiestie long lyfe, perfyt helth, hapie regne, and most blissit contentment.

Jour Maiefties most humbill and faithful feruant,

HAMILTON.

Hamiltoun, first Marche [1608?]*

The King his most facred Maiestie.

LXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI. $M_{ARCH\ 5,\ 1608}.$

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I tak the occasioun and bauldnes to vritte this vnto your hienes, in ansurer off that it pleased your facred maiestie vritte to me the secund of Februar, directing me to deall with my nepvieu, the Erle of Abercorne, that he sould desist from once farder insisting in suitte of the

The year is not given, and Balfour has placed the letter amongst those of 1606; but as it appears that the Marquis obtained a charter of the lands, patronage, and titles belonging to the Abbey of Aberbrothock, 5th May 1608, it was probably written in the month of March of that year.

Laird of Achindraynis* forfaulteur, and renunce all benefite and promeis he had of your majestie for the same, I could naa better trawell with him in that nor be communicatting your gracious mynd to him, be the ficht off viour hienes awin letter, whairtoe I hope he hes fend viour maieftie ane anfuere, whilk will fufficientlie fatiffie your princelie intentioun in this purpofe. This I can testifie vnto viour maiestie of certantie, that whafoewir hes informed your hienes, that the faid Erle off Abercorne delt, or wald once wayes be perfuadit to deall, for once favour or owirfight to the faid Laird of Auchindrayne, hes fayde far bye the treuthe, or onye thing hes ewir bene in his mynde. He hes indeed fome freindschipt with the hous of Bargenie, whomtoe Achindrayne hes bene this lang tyme a dependar; bott as the hous off Barganie findis that the faid Achindraynis practifes was the wrack of the last Laird off Barganye, swa haiff thay be experience off laitt tryed, that he was be all poffible meanes working to ondoe that house, and, thairfoir, hes haillilie cassin him off. And this, I affure your maiestie, that it was be thair speciall moyane, diligence, and industrie, with the affistance of the Erle off Abercorne, that baithe this last treasonable murthour of his, is brocht to the light it is cummed to, and also his foirknauledge, privitie, and perfuasioun to the young man, Thomas of Barganie, for the foull murthour of the tutour of Caffills: and without thair doing and infifting, the fame will be hardlie vitt brocht to perfectioun and dew outredde in tryall and punifchement.

I knaw Achindrayne hes be manye meanes focht to purchefs my Lord Abercornes goodwill, or at leaft to lay him bye his perfwitt, and for that hes cauffed offer him mair nor he can ewer haiff of the benefite off his parfuitte. Bot he hes newir gevin anye ear to fic propositioun, regairding ewer mair yiour hienes prencelie intentioun in the profecutioun of justice and pwnischement off sua wylde a fact, and the dewtie off his plaice and estaitt, nor anye commoditie: And this I hope yiour maiestie shall find be proofe to be the veritye and be his actioun, in regaird whereoff he is persuadit certanlie, that for naa vrang nor ontrew rapport off anye sic subjects, yiour hienes will alter or chaynge your formar prencelie word,

^{*} See note to Letter from Lord Balmerino, page 132.

grant and benefite, whereoff your hienes than thocht him worthie, for he efteyms that war a greater difgraice to him, nor all the mater is awaill. This I remitt alwayes to your majefties heiche wifdome and good refolutioun, for it may be that fehortlie the event may prove the Erle of Abercorne to be the Laird off Achindraynis fpeciall parfewar, and onlie owirthraw onder your maiefties authoritie and lawis, whilk will mauifeft the ontreuthe off that your hienes hes bene informed off. Swa, taking my leive, with the maift humbill kiffe off your royall hand, reftis for ewir

Yiour facred Maiefties maift humbill and affectionat fubject and feruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 5 Marche 1608.

To the King his maist excellent Majestie.

LXIX.—THE LAIRD OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI.

April 23, 1608.

PLEAS 30WR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I have beine wrgit be the counfell to fubmitt with the McFarlanes my brothers flauchter, and all wther flauchteris, muirtheris, hairfchippis, theiftis, reiffis, and opprefficunis, raifing of fyre, demolifching of howfis, ewitting and deftroying of woods and plainting, committit be thame againft me; quhilk fubmifficune is now become in 30wr ma-

iefteis hands.* And being informit that my Lord of Mar is to infift with zour maieftie to pronunce ane decreit not onlie upon criminall actiounis, bot also wpon the ciuill actiounis, quhairof I hawe obteinit decreitis alreadie befoir the Lordis of Seffioun, extending to the fowme of lxxij thowfand poindis money of Northe Britane, I will maift humbillie befeik zowr maiestie to referwe my decreitis alreadie obteinit; and quhat fatiffactioune 30wr maiestie pleases to decerne to me for the criminall actiounis, I mane hald me content thairwith, gife it be zowr maiesteijs will, that rebelles to zowr maiestie resawe that benefit, for they ar oft and diwers tymis at the horne for all the crymis abowewrytine, and findrie vther crymis not mentionat, whrelaxit as yet. Requeifting 30wr maieftie to tak in gwid pairt this my humbill fwit, having nothing els to offer sowr heynes, for all zowr wndeferwit fawouris, bot my most loyall hart, quhilk fall newer deword from the fmallest of 30wr maiestijs thochtis. This, humbillie craifeing pardoune of this my prefumptioun, I pray God grant 30wr maiestie, efter ane lang and happie regne, eternall felicitie.

Jour Maiestijs most humbille and loyallie affectit subiect and ferwand,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN off Lufs.

Rofdo, the xxijj day of Apryll 1608.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

^{• &}quot;The olde feids of blood and slaughter, betuix the Laird of Lusse and the Macfarlans, was in this month (April), by the counsaills mediatione, absolutely submitted to the Kings maiestics determinatione. The Macfarlanes had killed the Laird of Lusses brother, with maney of his friends and followers; casten doune some of his housses, cuttit his woodes, spoyled his landes and tenants, for which he had obteined decreitts against them for grate soumes of money, and had declared them rebells by law." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 25.

LXX.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI. May 1608.

PLEAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I refaived your maiestes lettre of the 12 of May the 17, at eight a clok at nicht. The fame morning, Sir Alexander Drummondes prefentatioun was gevin in to the fessioun, who, with the other tuay competitouris, being called in, and thay refusing to go to tryell, but willingly yealding to his preferment, his tryell was appoynted him, conforme to your maiesteis act. And for your maiesteis resolutioun anent his religioun, I haif fend heirwith, the testimoniall of his ordinair pastour, whair he hes made his refidence thir thre yearis, and of the minister of Abercorne, whair he remainit befoir, evir fen he had any duelling. So, I lave to your maiestes most princely consideratioun, out of what malice, ather aganes me or him, this inventioun hes growin: always his admiffioun fall ftay, whill it pleis your maiefty to certify your gratious plefur, protefting befoir the greit God of heavin, that nather blood nor acquaintance, but knawlege of his ability and inclinatioun to ferve, and what neid your maiesty standis in heir of worthy ministeris, did move me both to trayne him wp for your fervice, and finding him capable, to fute his preferments. So, hooping in your maiestes accustumed favour, that my affectioun to your fervice fall not be turned to my difgrace, and craving pardone of this boldnes, I wish your most facred maiesty, after a lang and prosperous raygne, eternell felicity.

Your Maieftes most humble and most obedient fervand,

J. Balmerinoch.*

This letter has no date, but the reference to Sir Alexander Drummond, who was appointed a
Judge of the Court of Session, and took the title of Medhope, proves it to have been written in
May 1608. Lord Medhope died in July 1619. See Melros Papers, p. 335.

The Erl of Abercorne hes taken Achindrane,* a most vyill murtherar, partly to kyith his affectioun to your maiesteis fervice, and to stop thair mouthes who calumniat him; and he wald be encouraged by renewing your gratious favour, promesit to him befoir, and he will not faill to do bettir fervice.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

LXXI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

May 25, 1608.

SIR,—PLEIS JOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

It is nocht poffible, be lettre, to expres the greiff of mynd quhilk juftlie I haue concawed, quhan be the counfall I wes laitlie informit of 50ur maiefties difcontentment aganis me, proceding, I dout, no thing of 50ur maieftes princlie and courtes inclinatioun, quhairof I haue had fo mony and dyweris experiences, bot of fum finifter informatioun of vn-freindis, as giff vndewtefullie I had behauit my felff, ather towardis 50ur maieftie, the miniftrie, or in contempt of 50ur hienes lawes or commandementis, quhilk I haue ewer reuerencit, and falbe to me in heicheft recommendatioun. For, Sir, it is ane greit regrait to me, that I may nocht pleid my innocencie in 50ur maieftes prefens, becaus than I wald nocht feir, but it fould cleirlie appeir, and my reuerend refpect and obe-

^{*} The atrocious murders to which this person was accessory form the subject of a Drama by Sir Walter Scott, entitled "Auchindrane, or the Ayrshire Tragedy," and the reader will find in the preface a most interesting abridgment of the chief particulars, Poetical Works, vol. xii. (last edition), 12mo, p. 243. The trial that followed (with various illustrative papers) is given by Mr Pitcairn in his valuable Criminal Trials, vol. iii. 124. Some additional and hitherto unpublished particulars occur subsequently in this volume.

dience to zour maicstes last commandementis be manifestit, quhilk, faucing zour maiefties plefour, wes fumquhat hard (all thingis being reichtlie confidderit). Zitt, giff ather bischop or minister can iustlie accufe me of the brek of any poyut of dewetie to thame, I am content to be tryit and puniffit accordinglie; bot be the contrar, giff I haue, with all obedience, obeyit and fatiffeit the preceifest of thame, I think thay fould nocht haue fa maliceouslie traducit me to zour maiestie, in complening quhair thay have na caus of complaint. Bot fence no thing I can do can content fum of thame, I most, with all humilitie and reuerence, intreit sour hienes nocht to credeitt all thair reportis of me, without ane mair particular tryall. And in this laitt chairge, quhairby zour maiestie hes ordanit me to be wairdit in Glafgow, I am most humblie to require zour maiestie, inrespect of the greit indispositioun of my bodie, tending to deathe, as the principall doctouris of medeceane in this cuntrie, be thair testimoniall under thair handis, testefeit to your maiestie, as thai have alreddie done to the counfall, to be that gracious to me, that, giff I falbe wairdit, it may ather be in Thomptalloun, Edinburgh, or Leithe, quhair I may have the help and affiftance of phifitianis for my feiknes, than in Glafgow, qubilk is ane place verie vnmeit for me, for fondrie refpectis, but fpeciallie for recowerie of my helthe: or giff it fall pleis 50ur maieste, that I may have 3our hienes favour to pairt frome this cuntrie for ane quheill, for the better preferuation of my helthe, I will accept of the fame as ane fingular benefeit, for fic fervices as I have done to zour maiestie in tymes bypast. And this, in all humilitie and reverence. kifs zour maiestes princle hand, I humble tak my leiff.

Jour Maiestes most humble and faithfull subject,

ERLL OF ANGUSS.

Cannogaitt, the 25 May 1608.

To his most facreid Maiestie.

LXXII.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VIJULY 8, 1608.

OUR MAIST GRATIOUS AND SOUERANE LORD,

We refeauet zour maiesties lettre direct unto ws, with zour maiefties counfallour, Sir Robert Danielftoun, knicht, conferuatour of zour maieflies fubiects of Scotland in the Law Countries, daittit at Greinwiche, the xv of Junij last; be the quhilk, we wnderstand that zour maiestie is informet of sum preposterous cheritabill supplie, gevin be sum merchantis trading in the Law Cuntries to the baneift minifters, with the quhilk 30ur maiestie is discontent, and thairfor willing ws to restraine that wndewtifull impertinent fupplie. Zour maiestie hes also willit ws to mak na choife of ane minister, to serue the natioun at the Campher, without 3our maiesties knawledge and approbatioun, and ficlyk that we fould ratifie the former actis, for establishing the stapill of the natioun at the Campheir. And last, that we fould respect the bearer, guhome zour maiestie hes fund trustie in zour feruice. Plais zour maiestie as to the first, everie ane of ws heir present hes gevin his declaratioun, that he knaws of na kynd of fupplie gevin to thais baneift minifters, and we have ordanit, that all the magistratis within your majesties burghes fould, be zour majefties authoritie, inhibit and difchairge all fic fupplies in tyme cumming, and that ilk commissioner fould intimy the famyn to his magiftrattis, and caus thame tak heid thairto, and puneifch the offenders fua oft as thay can be knawin. And as to the minister at the Campheir, we haue determinat and agriet, that nane falbe plaicet thair bot be 30ur maiesties confent and approbatioun; and as to the stapill at the Campheir and conferuatour, we have tane fic ordour thairwith, as zour ma-· ieftie hes defyrit. Forder, my Lord Confernatour hes fchawin that zour majestie hes declairit wnto him the caldnes of the burrowis, in not complaining to zour maieftie vpoun the frequent reforting of Papiftis and Jefuittis within this realme. We ar greatlic bund to thank your maieftie, that hes fic rememberance and seall of religioun, as to fteir and waikin ws vp to the doing of our dewties; and thairfoir, be the graice of God, expecting zour maiefties help and concurrence, we falbe mair cairfull to effectuat that pairt of our dewties to our power. And we ar this bauld to requyr 30ur maiesties authoritie, with the mair schairp and speidie executioun; and thairfoir, we pray 5our maiestie maist humblie to hald hand thairto, and to vrge the remanent magistrattis of the realme to ane mair vigilant cair in difchairging the dewties of thair offices in that behalf, quhilk we dout not but 3e will do. We also ar this humelie to pray 30u, that ane warrand may be direct to the post maisters betuix Londoun and Edinburght, to tak the merchant pakkat, to be faiflie delyuerit, as zour maiestie hes grantit to the Flemyngis, quhilk wilbe ane great farderance to the negotiatioun of zour maiesties subjectis of Scotland: to the quhilk office of refait and delyuerie of pakattis, we think 30ur maiesties subject, James Bannatyne, resident at Londoun, maist apt and qualifiet. And fua, praying the Lord to multiple zour maiefties dayis with ws, in ane happie governament, we committ zour maiestie to his mercifull protectioun. Frome Selkirk, this aucht day of Julij 1608.

Jour maift humble and obedient fubicctis, the Commissioners of Jour Maicsties burghes of Scotland, laitlie convenit at Selkirk, subferyyand be our commoun clerk of conventious at our command.

[Indorfed.]

The copy of the lettre fent be the burrowes to the Kings Maiestie, with Sir Alexander Hay. LXXIII.—SIR ANDREW MURRAY OF BALVAIRD TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 13, 1608.

MAY IT PLEAS 30UR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I have bein, be vertew of zour heichnes commandement, accusit be the Erl of Dumbar, as gif I haid bein ane most ondewtifull fubicct vnto zour maieftie, kything the malice of my hart by the vttering of onreverent speiches. Jour maiesties informer is Androw Hendersoun, of guhom I will forbear to fpeak any thing, leaft I fould feim to haue no better defence nor the accufing of my accufer. The first point of my accufatioun is, that I have callit zour maiefties promifis bot diffimulatiounis, and quhatfoeuer may, by confequence, be inferrit vpon this point, for verificatioun quherof he hes producit vnto the Erl of Dumbar ane letter wrettin by me from Roiftoun, the last of March 1604, directit vnto my vncle my Lord of Scone. The woordes ar theis: - My Lord, efter I had wrettin at lenth vnto zour Lordship with Maister Dauid Moray, I haue tryit fum thinges, quherof my dewtie bindes me to aduertife zour Lordthip. Notwithstanding of that qubilk I wret to zow in my last letter, that his maieftie had faid vnto my felff concerning 30w, I fear it be al bot diffimulatioun; quhilk woordes, how far they man be wreftit befoir they can proue the thing alledgit, I am perfuadit that 5our maiefties felf, without any apologie of myn, will most gratiouslie consider. Neuertheles, to the end zour maiestie may the moir cleirlie onderstand how far this malicious imputatioun diffagreis from my trew meaning, I will bot fchortlie fav this meikill. That former letter, quierof I maik mentioun, fent be Maifter Dauid Moray, had in it tua pairts. The first was ane declaratioun how zour maiestie had not only most gratiouslie admittit me to zour prefence, bot also gracit me with most fauorabill countenance; and, mairouer, most bountifullie had givin commandement to gif me tua hunderith

pund. The vther part was, that I had rememberit my vncle vnto fundrie of zour maiefties counfell and fum of zour fauorites, from quhom I had refauit great protestatiounis of affectioun vnto him, and as great promiffis of freindschip in his adoes. Bot befoir the wretting of this last letter (quherof I am now accusit), I was certanlie informit be sum of my yncles fpecial freindes, that they from quhom I had refauit fairest woordes wer his greatest enemies; quhilk mouit me to call their promiss dissimulat, sa that the fence of my woordes ar very cleir after this maner, notwithstanding of that quhilk I wret in my last letter that 30ur maiestie had faid and done vnto my felf; zet that quhilk I wret concerning my vncle, I tuik it al to be bot diffimulatioun. Gif my former letter wer as weill to the foir to be producit vnto zour maiestie as this last is, it wald maik al this matter most cleir. Bot as God schal be my just judge, I haue set down vnto 30ur maieftie most trewlie beath the contents of the one, and my meaning in the vther. Their fallowes in my letter [I knaw his maiestie to be as they ar that be about him, and I affuir 30w, 3e haue no fauour of them that ar in greatest credit heir]. To this I answer, that I was never fic a fott to think that zour maiestie was so simpill to be guydit be them that ar about 30w. I have boith hard and fein to muche of 30ur maieffies wifdom and refolutioun to think fa vyld a thoght. Bot my meaning was, feing my vncle had no fauour of them that wer in greatest credit about 30ur maiestie, the quhilk I was most certanlie mead to beleine, therfoir, I greatlie fearit that their hard informatioun might muif 3our maieftie agenft him, he not being prefent to answer for him felf, and hauing about 30ur maiestie so many enemies. Their rests yet moir in my letter. [I heir fav that their is ane turn past heir in fauoures of Androw Henderfoun, into the qubilk zour lordschip hes great neid to tak head to zour proceding; for, albeit his maieftie hes past it vnto him, I fear it be rather to try how 3e behaue 3our felf, nor for any good mynd they had to pleafour Androw Henderfoun]. Theis woordes, I houp, neid no apologie. Befoir God, I had mynd of nothing concerning 3our maiestie. I knaw, and that be experience, that all 3our maiesties grants ar, and haue bein, euer frie and abfolut. My only meaning was, of the advantage they that wer about 3our maiestie might maik of my vncles behauiour in this

matter; for it was directlie faid be fum of them, that he wald content Androw Henderfoun with a final pairt, and tak the rest to himself. From this point, it will pleafe your maiestie to consider that the grund of my accufatioun proceids, and not from that zeal and affectioun my accufer professis to bear vnto zour maiestie, or els he had communicat this to 3our heichnes at the first, and not keipit the sam befyds him thir four zeires and moir, and now at lenth reveilit it be the infligatioun of vther men, as himfelf pairtly confessis. Their is no man could moir justlie accuse me vpon this matter nor the Erl of Dumbar, gif his lordfchip had knawen my trew meaning, for it was his lordfchip of quhom I cheiflie meanit in my letter, and I have cravit his lordfchip most humblie pardoun for that I was fa folifche vpon any informatioun to beleiue that his lordfchip thoght vtherwayes nor he had faid vnto my felff. Gif I durft haue prefumit without zour maiefties leiue, I wald, with proftrating myfelff at 30ur maiesties feit, be woord and not be letter, haue mead this my most trew declaratioun, and vnto the tym zour maieftie grant me that libertie (quhilk, be thir prefents, I most humblie beg at 5our gratious handes), my hart fchal neuer be pertaker of any contentment. Albeit my confcience bears me witnes that I neuer fa meikill as thoght onreverentlie of 50ur maieftie, zet am I grevid aboue meafour to think that any thing fould haue efcapit my hand, quhilk, in the hardest constructioun, can be accoumptit for ondewtifulnes agenft 3our heichnes. Their is na thing in this warld can difcontent me moir then to want 30ur maiesties fauour; bot to want it throch my awen just deferuing, wer to me insupportabill. I wer to be accoumptit the most ingrat wrech that euer had lyf, gif euer I had fufferit any fuch thoght to have had place within my mynd, confidering the manifold fauoures 50ur maieftie hes fchawen boith to my felf, and all my kynred. Their remaines 3et the last point of my letter, into the quhilk I maik fum mentioun of my Lord Secretar. My fimpill meaning was, that his lordfchip at that tym had not fa great fauour as he defyrit to have had of theis that wer in credit about your maiestie. I will cease to trubill zour maiestie any moir with my idill woordes, not dowting bot zour maieftie will, according to zour accustomit goodnes, confider that the affectioun I careit vnto my vncles weill, mead me the moir ernest in my letter; and gif their be any woordes in it onadvyfit or not weill chofin (as I do confes their is many), 3our maieftie will imput them to want of witt and laik of difcretioun, quhilk euer accompanies 3outh, and not to malice, quhilk, I proteft in the prefence of God, is as far remouit from my hart, as it fliks neir to their hart that does accuife me. Praying vnto the Eternall to grant vnto 3our maieftie ane moift happie and profperous regne, and bliflit and lang lyff, I reft

Jour Maiesties most humbill and most obedient subiect,

Andro Moray of Baluaird.*

Edinbrughe, the 13 of July 1608.

LXXIV .- LORD SCONE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS JOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I wes conveynit heir befoir my Lord of Dunbar, and confronted with Andro Henryfoine, wpoun fume wnreuerend fpeicheis fpokin be me of 3our maieftie, quhilkis wer all utterly denyit, in the prefence of Sir Alexander Hay, 3our maiefties fecretar, that euer he haid fpokin or wrettin any thing in my preiudice, ather to 3our maieftie or ony vther man leiveand, quhilk if I haid euer hard fpokin be ony vther man in the world wnchallengit, I micht bein thocht the onlie wngrate and wnworthie man in the world. Bot I leave this to 3our maiefteis gratious confideratioune, what all my actiounes hes bein in 3our maiefteis fervice, bothe in word and deid, quhairof I will be glaid content to be cenfuret be my gritteft enemeyis. Now, Sir, to qualifie this informatioune of Andro

Nephew of Lord Scone, afterwards first Viscount Stormont. He died without issue, Dec. 14, 1624, and was succeeded by his uncle.

Henryfonis, he hes producit ane lettre of my brother foneis, direct fra Ingland to me, about the space of four zeiris and ane half sence, at quhilk tyme, zour maiestie will be remembrit, I maid eirnist sute to haue haid the fauour to haue remayneit with 30ur maiestie, and to haue haid fome place of credit thair, wherannent it pleifit zour maiestie to fay to me, that zour maiestie wold advyse with some of zour Inglis counsall, to gett fume place to me; and at my waycomeing fra 3our maiestie, I delt with fik of 3our maiesteis counfall as came vp with 3our maiestie, to be my freind in abfence, feing all the rest of the Scottis counfall that came with zour maiestie wer preferrit to placeis of credit (bot I), of quhome I reflaueit verrie fair promeiffis, nocht only to remember 50ur maieftie, bot to be my particular freind, and my brotheris fone beand thair vpoon fome vther biffinesse of his awin with 5our maiestie, I desyreit him to hald sic of the counfall as haid promefit to be my freind in remembrance; quhilk he did, according to my directioun, and wrett heir to me to Scotland, with Mr David Murray, that he haid kiffit 5our maiefties hand, and reffaueit ane verrie gratious anfuer of 50ur maieftie in fome of his awin particularis, and haid also remembrit fic of the counfall as I haid defyreit him to fpeik with in my fauoris, of whome he reflaueit verie guid wordis and fair promeiffis, that thei wold nocht onlie remember zour maieftie, and adwyfe with thame in the meynis, how fome place micht be gottin to me, quhilk letter pat me in hop to beine fend for schortlie thairefter; and within fvf or fex dayis efter the receitt of this letter, my brotheris fone wrett to me ane vther letter, produceit now be Andro Hendersone, wheirin he affuiris me, he is certefeit be fum speciall freindis of myne, that the fair promeiflis that wer maid be fum of the counfall wes nothing bot diffemulatioune, and speciallie of thame that I trustit maist into, forbe some speicheis that he haid hard, he feirit that thei fould rather kyth my vnfreindis, and that 3our maiestie wes informeit be sic as wer about 3ou, that I haid sent Andro Henderfone to beg fumthing fra zour maieftie, that I could nocht mak fute for myfelf, and quhateuer zour maiestie haid grantit to gif him, zour maiestie wes informeit, he haid transfactit with me for the fame, and I wald gett the fame to myfelf. Thir fpecheis beand reportit be fum freind to my brotheris fone, and he feiring I micht be moveit fra the loue

I buire to Andro Hendersone, to pas his gift quhilk zour maiestie haid grantit to him, and that the fame micht be layd to my chairge fum vther day, and out of the love my brotheris fone buire to me, he gave me this aduertefment. And alfefone as this letter came to my handis, I fent it to Andro Hendersone, to the effect that he fould tak na exceptiones of my guidwill, albeit, I haid refuseit to pas his gift in respect of the premiffis, bot I gaue him furetie, that I wald deill with zour maieftie for ane benefit to him, quhilk I did, and obtenit of zour maiestie bettir nor fevin hundrethe merkis be zeir, quhilk he poffessis presently, quhilk wes thocht be maney of the cuntrie mair nor he meretit: zit, in respect he did zour maiestie no evill, being quhair he micht haue done it (if God haid nocht beine 30ur maiesteis better freind), and euer sence that tyme I haue reteynit him in my fervice, and hes protectit him, and euer fall, and he hes haid the commandement of all that I have in theis partis. Bot zour maiestie will knaw in the awin tyme, that this is nocht come fra Andro Henrysone, for he wes neuer very wyfe, and he hes loft ane guid pairt of the witt quhilk he haid, for it appeiris he is nocht his awin man, for the quhilk I ame maift forey, and I will neuer tak me to him for ony thing that can be reportit of me to zour maiestie, and in the awin tyme, zour maiestie will knaw how this comeis, fra quhome, and how this pure man hes beine abufeit. Alwayis, I man leave this and all my vther actionis, bothe in word and deid, to 3our maiesteis gratious consideratioune, fra the first tyme I haid the honour to serve zour maiestie, quhilk is threttie tua zeiris fence, and I neuer haid caus to weyrie, for zour maiestie hes nocht onlie honorit me, bot gevin me all I haue in the world, and brocht me vp fra nothing, and if I fould prove vngratte and wnthankfull to fa gratious a maister, I mereit punesment aboue all tratouris in the world. Sa, wiffing 3our maieftie all happines, with the contenewance of 3our maiesteis guid helthe,

I rest 50ur Maiesteis humill and obedient fervitour,

Scone.*

This letter has no date, but this is in a manner fixed by the preceding one from his Lordship's nephew. Both these documents refer particularly to Andrew Henderson, who was said to be the

LXXV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI. ${\small {\rm August~3,~1608.}}$

Maist Sacred Souerane,

Be your heighness directioun, your trustie and faithfull seruitour, and my awin auld freind, my Lord Earle off Dumbar, communicat unto me vifterday viour majefteis lettir, concerning fuim opinioun that viour maiestic fould have confaued, that I entertenie suim puirpois and communicatioun, ather direclie or indireclie, be interchange off lettirs with viour facred maiefties worthie, maift nobill, and darrest bedfallow, in maters tuiching your heighness estait heir, and your maist speciall and maift confident feruantis.* I thocht the faid lettir (for I had bot a shiort wieu off it) baith lang, pitthie, and paffionat, as I nather will nor can denie bot thair war maift iust cause to your heighness, to be offendit at me in all heighest degree, gif einer it had entred in my minde, to attempt to medill in ony fic thing, or to have ony fik trafik in your heighness affaires. I am forced, in all humilitie, to entreat your heighness excuse me, that I can nocht mak fik purgatioun off this crime be my lettir, as it wald require, gif I war onye wayes giltie off the fame; for I proteft unto viour facred maieftie, ondir quhais prencelie fauour, clemencie, and pro-

person that detained the King in custody at Gowrie House. Some writers assert that he was, although absent, examined to corroborate the King's 'statement, the truth of which was questioned, in the belief that the circumstance of his having been Lord Gowrie's Chamberlain would add weight to his testimony. Others contend that he was really present on the occasion. There certainly are some slight differences in the King's narrative and Henderson's deposition; but we really think that too much stress has been attached to them. Indeed, unimportant discrepancies in evidence, where the main facts agree, frequently tend rather to remove than create suspicion of collusion. However the fact may have been, Henderson was the gainer, as, besides other gifts, according to this letter he had an annual allowance of 700 merks—a very handsome income in those times.

These real or supposed intrigues are not noticed, so far as the Editor has been able to ascertain, by any of the contemporary writers.

tectioun, and be quhais onlye advancement and instructioun I have attained to all the knawledge and experience I have in the affaires of this estaitt, and am rasin in this fortown I am in, far aboue my merite, vpon that faith and treuth I aught baith unto God and to yiour maiestie, albeit I be euin at this prefent in als greate a passioun as eiuer I haue bein in, for the maift manifest and greate wrangs of calomneis I have fusteined in this Generall Affemble, as I doubt nocht bot viour heighnefs, in viour heigh wifdome and iustice, will off your felf wye and confidder: yit came thair neiuer to me fik a greiff in hairt and minde, as I refaued be viour heighness forefaid lettir, be the aprehensioun I tak your heighness sould fuspect ony fik thing off me. It has wounded me fua, that it has putt me fra all other thocht or cair; for as I wald think myfelf onwordie to be leiuand, gif I haid committed fa filthe an errour, fua man I difdane baith my lyff and haill eftaitt, fa lang as I am in feare my maift gracious fouerane has onye fufpicion, I be onye wayis giltie of fa abominabill crime. This aprehenfioun troublis fua eiuin my witt, that it can nocht furnish me purgations ansurabill in once measure to my defire; and gif I wald fett doun to your maieftie, all the purgations that my just dolour and greiff prefentis unto me, I could nocht mifs to be importune, tedious, and troubilfuim. I hoipe I have be toung fatiffeit my Lord Earle of Dumbar, and he has shiawin me, he hoiped in this point to satisfie viour facred maiestie.

This onlye I will craue your heighnefs pardon to wryte planelie as I meane, as I fould ansuer unto God, nixt to that deutie I aught to God, according to my knawledge, I eiuened nor equaled neiuer na thing in this warld to yiour maiesties fauour, and I preferred nor wyed neiuer in paragon onye thing with yiour heighness plefour, contentment, or honour, nor thinks neiuer to doe. The werye calomneis, and malicious delations, geuin fwrth at onye tyme against me felf, greiuis me nocht sa meikill for onye entress off my awin, as for the consequence thairoff, may redound on yiour facred maiestie, that it sould be thocht yiour heighness greate wisdome, may haue bein su filed and abused in the preferrement off sik a man, and on ony iust occasioun, had bein or war ministrat be me thairoff, I wifs rather I war dissolued in dust, and had neiuer bein.

This I maift humblie, hairtlie, and fincerlie craue of your heighness prencelie dispositioun to think off me, till in your greate wisdome and inflice yie trye ony contrair. Sua, maift humblie taking my leiue, with the kifs of your facred hand, and praying fra my hairt the Eternall lang to preserue your heighness in all bliss and prosperitie, I reste eiuer

Your facred Maiesties maift humbill and obedient subject and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 3º Augti 1608.

To the Kingis maift excellent Maieftie.

LXXVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 10, 1608.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I haue bein this langtyme confyned in Glafco, ane part far frome my leifing and freindfchip, quhair be the daylie refort of fome of my enimies and euill willaris fome vnhappie truibill may fall furthe, by my will, and without my knawlege; and now the Generall Affembillie hes giffin furthe ane act to excommunicat me, befor the xviij day of September. Quhat greif and forrow this bringis to my hart, God knawis; becaus my graitteft cair hes ewir bein, and falbe, that I myght end my dayes (quhilk, I am perfuadit, fall not be many) at peace with God, and in your maiefties obedience. My dewtifull affectioun to your hienes commandementis I remitt to your maiefties memorie, and my queat behauiour in religioun, the prefbiteries quhair I remannit can beir record; for I beleif your maieftie hes not hard ony complainttis of me, in particular, fens your maiefties pertting frome Scotland. Newir the lefs, as I am informit the kirk intendis to wfe ane fommer procefs againft me, except that your

gratius maiestie sind out, and grant me some remeid. The permission qubilk of graice only I crawe (gif it pleis not your hienes to ease me with ane better) is, ether to depert this cuntrie, conforme to your hienes licence all redie grantid, with fuirtie not to returne; or els, that it wald pleis your maiestie to confyne me within ane of my awin houssis, and so many myllis about the same, quhair I am glaid to leif as ane privat subiect, and newir to medill me with publict affairis, bot be your maiesties direction. The experience of your maiesties accustumat clemencic towardis me imbauldis me to this heumbill petitioun, and gif it war not the estait and a matter of confcience, I protest befor God, I wald have bein laith to have truiblit your maiestie with sic fuittis; and yet ane thing I moist humble intrait your maiestie to mak deference of men, conforme to thair deferuing: and thus, in kissing your maiesties princlie hand, I pray God to fend your maiestie lang lyf, and prosperus reign.

Your Maiefties moift heumbill and obedient fubiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Glasco, the 10 of August 1608.

To the King his most excellent and gracious Maiestie.

LXXVII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 12, [1608?]

PLEIS 30UR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Hauing haid from my 30ngeft 3eiris that good hap and honour, as to be acceptit in 30ur most facred maiestis seruis to be the mediatioun of the last Duk of Lenox, 30ur maiestis most sauorit cousing and seruiteur, and sins that tyme I leiue it to 30ur facred maiestis auin super natural wisdom and memorie, to remember gif I haue not at all tymis giuin proof of my assectiour, loyaltie, and obediens, quhansoeuir

it hes plefit zour facred maieftie till honour me uith zour commandements; and nou, finding my estait endangerit, and my urak focht, be more rigorous deling than I was informed 3our facred maieftie did requeir of me, I am forfit to feik quhar I haue euer lenit to the anker of my refuge, quhilk is zour facred maieftis fauorable clemencie, befeiking zour facred maiestie not to condiscend to the ruine of him quha hes nathaer lyf, land, nor blood bot it that falbe uairit but exceptioun, quhanfoeuer zour facred maieftis feruis fall requer the fame, hoping that 3our facred maieftis conftancie and fauour, quhilk is the ftoup of my repos, fall beir me throch this trubill, as it hes borne me throch greater heirtofor. And albeit 1 knau I haue monie craftie euilluillars to deill in my contrar, and my felf far diftant from your facred maieftis confortable prefens, zit I defyd not of your facred maieftis fauorable conftanfcie touards me, feing my affection and obediens falbe continuall. Therfor, Sire, difpos of me as fall beft pleis zour facred maiestie, for I fall haue no uill of myn bot till abev souris; nathaer defyr I to leiue langer gif it be not to ferue and content zour facred maiestie: fo I will beseik zour most facred maiestie till put me till fum conftant ftand out of this continuall trubill, for one word of sour facred maieftis uill uirk my peace, quhilk is the onlie regard I craige for my long feruis bygaine. I haue directit ane kinfman of myne, berar heirof, till declaire unto zour facret maiestie mair particularlie my estait, gif it fall pleis zour facred maieftie till honour him uith zour prefens. Sua, craining pardoun for my baldnes, efter the kiffing maift humblie of your facred maieftis hand, I uill pray the Eternall God to preferue euer 30ur most facred maiestie in lang lyfe, and most prosperous renge, with all contentment.

> Jour most facred Maiestis humble subject and most affectionat feruiteur to the deith,

> > HUNTLYE

At Aberdein, this tuelt of August.

To the Kings most facred Maiestie.

LXXVIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 18, 1608.

Most gracious Souerane,

We reffaued your maiefteis lettre, concerning your heynes directioun to call befoir, ws fuche lawyeris as fett thair handes to that forme of Hairtfydis caife* fent vp to your heynes, and to proceid aganis thame accordinglie; wherin, we wer most cairfull to haif gevin vnto your maieftie fatiffactioun; bot becaus we wantit the principall lettre whiche wes subferyed be the lawyeris, † wherby we myght haif led a formall proces aganis thame, we haif sufferit that mater to rest, quhill it fall pleis your maiestie to caus the principall be send doune, at whiche tyme we sall so proceid in that mater, as we sall gif vnto your maiestie satisfactioun. We haif conferrit with some three or source of the principallis of the aduocatis, who seameth to misknow the tennour of the lettre and wryte fend vp, so that we could find no mater nor purpois wherupoun to challange thame. Thair hes bene a petitioun gevin in to your maiesteis counsaill be the

[•] Margaret Hartsyde or Hertsyde, spouse of John, afterwards Sir John Buchannan, was, 10th August 1608, convicted of stealing some of the jewels of Queen Anne, declared infamous, and banished to Orkney. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. ii. p. 544. In December 1619, the King by his warrant ordered the declaration of infamy to be expunged from the record; at same time stating that she had been, "by the sinisterous information of certain of her vnfrends for the tyme, persewit criminallie." Balfour, in his Annals, says that the "courtiers talked" she was punished "for reuelling some of the Queen's secretts to the King, wich a wysse chalmbermaide wold not haue done." Annals, vol. ii. p. 26.

[†] This letter has not been recovered. The "prelocutoures for the pannell" were Mr William Oliphant, afterwards Lord Advocate; Mr, afterwards Sir Thomas Hope; Mr Alexander King, an eminent advocate, who, however, according to Robert Johnstom's account, Hist. Rerum Britt., folio, p. 231, usually bribed the judges with a portion of the fees he received from his clients; and Mr John Russell; Mr Robert Buchannane, minister at the Kirk of Ceres; Mr William Buchannan, minister at Methyen. The two latter were probably relatives.

burrowis, craving a reftrent to be maid of the transporting of burnecoill; bot becaus findrie of your maiesteis liegeis hes gottin licenceis for transporting of coillis, in confideratioun of the great chargeis and expensifis whiche thay haif fustenit, and daylie undirlyis in wynning and upholding of thair coilheuchis, we haif differred the ansuring of thair petitioun till the knowlege of your maiesteis pleasour, we being loath to quarrell your maiesteis licenceis without your maiesteis allowance. And sua, most humelie recommending your facred maiestei, and all your royall progenye, to Godis divyne protectioun, we rest

Your Maiesteis moist humble and obedyent fubicctis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLS.
LOTHIANE.
SANCHAR.

BLANTYRE.
J. BALMERINOCH.
Ross.

ELPHINSTOUN.

JAMES HAY.

18 August 1608.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

LXXIX.-THE REVEREND ROBERT DURIE TO KING JAMES VI.
OCTOBER 21, 1608.

PLEAS 30UR MAIESTIE, -MOST DREAD SOVERANE,

I have hard of lait that 50ur maieftie hes conceaued a new offence against me, be occasione of a speech which (as is reported) the Confernatour hes spoken to 50ur hienes of me, namelie, that I suld hav said to him, be way of traducing 30ur hienes, that 50ur maiestie gave way to the rebellione in Irlande, to the end 50ur hienes mycht seem con-

ftraingned to grant toleration to the Papistes; wherin, if he or any other hes fo reported of me, both your maiestic and I suffer great wrong. If ther had been fuch curfed intentione in me as to traduce your maieftie (which the fearcher of all heartes knawes wes and is fare fra my heart), it is not probable that I wald hav done it to fuch a perfone, who I knaw fo reverences and affectes sour maieftie, according to his bound dewtie. It is trew that, because I wes in conference with me Lord Conferuitore, and having occasione to be among strangeres who wer talking of the overfight and places that Papiftes hes vnder 50ur hienes, and remembering how it wes fpokin of, that Papiftes had great credit, materes of Yrland wer not much regairded, and that the nomber of Romishe Catholickes did greatlie growe, this, faid thay, apparentlie myght bring in libertie of Poprie, ather be necessitie or be some course of policic. Now, because the Conferuator is one of zour hienes councele, and myght fom tyme have occasione to speak a word in seasone to your hienes, how strangeres fcanfes of thinges that thay heir, and fo myght giv councele for remeading fuch thinges as any way myght feem to hinder the growth of 50ur maiefties honorable and glorioufe estimation among the godlie; theirfore, be way of information and report of the spech of vtheris, I did report fecretlie, none being witnes betwix him and me bot God, what wes fpokin be vtheres, lyk as, if I had been in credit myfelf, and cowld have found convenient opportunitie at that tym, I wald have thought it my dewtie to have craved pardone of 5our hienes, to have spokin to 5our maiestie all that I fpak to the Confernatour, lyk as fra my heart, I defire the increse of zour hienes good estimation, and wald have everie thing removed that may hinder the growth of the famyne. In end, it wes fubjoyned, that I trusted the rebellione in Yrland fuld move zour maiestie to tak such ordour, that all these doubtes fuld be takin out of menes myndis. This, Sir, is the fimple trewth of that mater, and if ather the Conferuatour or any vther (yet, to my rememberance, I had na fpeech of fuch mater bot with him) hes fpokin vther wayfe, the thing I faid is far miftakin, and that which I reported as the speech of another, be way of information, is given out to zour maiestie in my nam, be way of assertione. Heerof it proceedes, that the thing done be me with a dewtifull and reverent affectione of heart toward zour hienes, is imput to me as if I had traduced my lord the king, which God and men knawes my heart hes ever abhored to do to any, bot much mor to my foverane lord. Alwayfe, Sir, it will pleafe sour maieftie to tak notice of the purpose of my heart in this mater, as also of the circumstances in vttering my dewtifull affection to zour hienes estimation, and what zour maiestie judges that I have offendit in any circumstance in this mater, as I shall wnderstand thairof, I will in all humilitie of heart acknowledg and crave pardone for the fame, perfwaded that the trewth of that mater being knawin as it wes, zour maiestie will never imput it as any giltines to me, bot (according to my earnest defyre) freelie forgive whatsoever overfight that, throw my simplicitie and good intentione, may accidentlie have eschaped me heirin. Now, I befech the Lord to blife 30ur maiesties royale persone and government, with 3our queen and princlie posteritie, with all good bliffinges for this lyf, and that which is to come, and eftablish sour throne vnto the coming of our Lord in the cloudes, to fet all thinges in ordour, Amen.

Jour Maiesties loyall and faythfull subje€t, humble fupplicant, and daylie oratoure,

MR ROBERT DURIE.*

Middelbrughe, the 21 of October 1608.

[•] Formerly Minister of Anstruther. He was one of the Ministers indicted for high treason in 1606, and convicted by the management of the Earl of Dunbar. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 10, and M·Crie's Life of Melville, Edin. 1824, 8vo. vol. i. p. 119. After being imprisoned fourteen months in Blackness Castle, he was banished to France. Subsequently he became Minister at Leyden, and died there in the year 1616.

LXXX.—THE REV. PATRICK SYMSONE TO KING JAMES VI. NOVEMBER 10, 1608.

DREADE SOUERANE,

The returning of fum of the commissionares of the Generall Affemblie laitlie frome zoure maiestie, togidder with thair reporte of zour hienes gratious acceptatioun bothe of thame felfis and of thair commiffion alfo, hes nocht onlie wrocht grite iov in our hairtes, bot alfo hes incuragit ws to prefent vnto zour maieftie most humbill and hairtie thankis for 30ur hienes most fauorable countenance, and gratious acceptatioun foirfaid. Becaus the grittest bliffing that our hairtes could haif wiffchit, wes to fie in our tyme one God trewlie worschippit, one king dewtifullie feruit, one law reuerentlie obeyit, one faithe and religioun allanerlie, vnfenzetlie professit within this realme, this bliffing (we fay), quhilk our hairtes fo earneftlie wishit to sie throuche 30ur maiesties gude inclinatioun to advance the trewthe of God, is liklie to attene to ane grittare mefour of perfectioun then euer we could haif expected in our dayes. Oure pairte falbe (Godwilling), by all humbill feruice, dewtifull obedience, and reuerent fubicatioun, to glaid the harte of our Souerane Lord, to the end 3our maiestie do nocht this worke with greif, bot with ioy and full contentment of mynd, and lykewyis with our eirnest supplicationes to ftrenthen zour maiesties handis, that poware may cum frome above to mak 3our hienes authoritie feirfull to all the professit enemies of Christis gospell, bothe within and without the cuntrie. And albeit we could neuer as yit attene to the perfectioun of the best forte of wyfe cheldrene, ouha haif careit thame felfis fo dewtifullie toward thair father, that in all thair lyftyme thay haif nocht procured ane angrie looke of thair fatheris countenance, nor yet ane scharpe strype frome thair fatheris handis, yit we fall indenoir (God willing) to be in the fecund rank of wyfe cheldrene, quha walkis circumfpectlie and warlie, fering, frome thair hairtis, to gif iust caus of offence to thair gratious and loving father. Jour maiestie, according to zour wounted elemencie, will pitie infirmitie in zour humbill feruandis, and punishe proude malice in 5our enemies, guha have pre-

fumit (as we heare) to cast furthe, to the vew of the worlde, railing writtingis against my Lord the King; bot the foule of my Lorde the King fall be bounde in the boundell of lyf withe the Lorde thy God, and the foule of thy enemeis fall God cast out of the midle of ane sling, 1 Sam. 25; quha difpyfes gouernament and ar prefumptuous, and fland in thair awin conceate, and feare nocht to fpeake evill of thame that ar in authoritie, 2 Pet.; quhais custome also it is to stand far af, to barke lyke doggis against godlie princes, fearing to be beatine with the staff of lauchfull authoritie, gif they approche neare. Thairfoir, most gratious fouerane, we humblie intreate 30ur maieftie to count this to be ane pece of the rebuke of Christe, quhilk fall purches to zour hienes in this worlde ane fure and fleadfast hous, and, in the worlde to cum, ane wecht of vnfpeakable glorie, and fo muche the rather, nocht to tak fuche railing fpeches greuouslie, becaus the Lord hes maid zour maiestie wyfe, lyke ane angell of God, to knowe good and euill; and with the pithe of 50ur maiefties royall pen, to be als feirfull to all learned for ane aduerfareis, as, by the strenthe of ane lauchfull and fattled authoritie, to dantoun all intestene and domestike rebellis. Finallie, we humblie entreate your majestie to beare with our boldnes and rudenes as ane father dois with his awne babes, guha lykes better of the blobering speches of his awine cheldrene proceding frome love, then of all the painted eloquence of his haitfull enemeis. This, in all humbill maner wishing to sour maiestie long lyfe and ane prosperous ringne, we cease to impeshe zour maiefties eares with farder wordes.

> Jour Maiesties humbill feruandis, the Brethrene of the Presbiterie of Striuling, subscriuand be ane of thair nomber, at thair command.

> > PATRIK SYMSONE,*

Striuling, the tent day of Nouember 1608.

To his Maiestie.

Minister of Stirling. He wrote a History of the Christian Church, originally published at Edinburgh in 4to, by Andro Hart, and afterwards at London, 1624, folio.

LXXXI.—THE REV. JOHN HALL AND THE REV. PETER HEWATT TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 15, 1608.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

After our former letters, our fupplication written in the favours of the town here, fome thing was done be them for your majesties contentment, wherewith we thought good to acquent your highnes. They, perceiving your majefties displeasure to arise upon their former election of a proveft, did haften to fome speedie remedie that their offer of amendement shuld not be compted verball only, and have this day, the fifthtenth of this inftant November, made election of Sir John Arnot to be their provest for the yeir to come. Whilk doing of theirs dois furnish to us greater boldnes with your majeftie, and makis us with the greater earnestnes to renew our former humble fute, that it may pleafe your majeftie accept of this amends, with our promife, in their name, of greater warineffe in all tyme cumming. It has ever bene your majefties custome to gaine by elemencie, and recall offendors, gif their pertinacie did not thraw from your majefties hand rigour and extremitie. Upon this your majefties clemencie, wee rest in this particular, that, having to doe with them who are feared in any fort to incurre your majefties difpleafure, and whose only frowning keepis them in sufficient aw, there may be, in fleid of your majesties hatred or anger toward them (where at their unfriends wald rejoice), a continuance of your majefties woonted love and favour. Thus, craving pardon for our boldnes, we humblie tak our leave.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient subjects,

Jo. HALL. MR P. HEWATT.

Edinburgh, 15 November 1608.

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

LXXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI. December 2, 1608.

Maist Sacred Soueraine,

Following to my powar your maiesteis princelie intentioun, and the good exemple we had of your hienes, when the licht of your prefence and wifdome was heir fchyning amongs ws, for tryall off thir wild mourthouris of the Laird of Cuilzeane, Tutour of Caffills, and Williame Darrumple, parfewit be the Erle off Caffills aganis the Lairdis off Achindraine, eldar and youngar, I have bene cairfull to vie all the moyanes our lawis and practique wald permitt me, at the pairteis defire. This last oulke, with my Lord Archebischope off St Androis, the Justice Clerk, Privie Seall, Lord Whittinghame, Sir Jhone Arnote, and your maiefteis aduocat, I examinat divers dayes baithe the lairdes, and fome other witnessis, wpon interrogatouris werie pertinent to the triall of the purpois, whilk war alwayes impertinent to truble your maiestie withall. We find thame obstinatlie resolved to denye all micht ather concerne the fact, or ony thing micht giff licht to mak thame guiltie thairoff. Bot thair anfuers ar fic, and the young laird in fic contrarietie with his formar depositiounes in principall poynts, and sic contrarieties betuix the father and the fone in werie materiall poynts, as the faids answers in our examinatioun weyed with thair going to the horne, when thai war first challenged for the crime, thair daylie intercoumoning with thair man Ballentyne, who hes tayne the cryme on him, and is fugitive thairfoir, and with innumerable other circumftances, maid ws all to think in our confciences that war baithe guiltie. Notwithstanding whereof, knowing parfytelie giff that had prefentlie bene putt to ane affife, wpon thair awin denyall thai wald haif bene clenged, be aduyfe off fecret counfall, I have continowed the day off law to Februar nixt, to tak farder inquifitioun in this mid tyme, and to have farder aduerteifment from your facred maieftic whow to proceed in that mater, or giff it be your hienes will the juffice be ordoned to proceed to onye extraordinar forme in triall of theefe factis, feing that carie fic extraordinar and barbarous example, the laft being the murthour off ane pure boy, onlye to cover the guiltines of the tirft murthour of the tutour of Caffills, fic a blood as may continowallie crye to heaven aganis the haill land, till it be purged. The criminalls ar ftill keped in waird. The crime off the awin nature is be act of Parliament trafoun, murthour onder truft.

Heirin attending your maift gracious maiesteis prencelie ordonance and commandements, praying for all felicitie to your highnes in a long and prosperous regnne, swa restis

Your facred Maiefties maift humbill and obedient fubiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburght, 2d December 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

LXXXIII.—THE EARL OF CASSILLIS TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 3, 1608.

Maist Sacreed Souerane,

It may pleis your gratious maieftie, I haue taikin this bauldnes, vpone the farder tryall of the trechrous murthouris of my vncle, the Laird of Culzeaine, and of the boy quha careit the lettir of his dyett, committit be the Laird of Auchindraine and his fonne, and now farder cleirit be the greit paine and cayr of my Lord Chancelare, quha hes broicht thame to fik contrarietie in thair depositionis, that all indifferent men may be perfwadit off thair guyltines of baith thais murthouris, notwithftanding quhairof thaj flill continew in ane denyall. I wald maift humelie befeik your maieflie, that it may be your maiefleis gracious plefoure to graunt ane warrand to the chancelar and counfall of Scotland to putt thame to the buittis, quhairthrow thaj may be broicht to the mair evident confessioun. So, maist hartlie vysling your maiesteis lang prosperitie and happines for euer, I remane

Your Maiesteis maist humbill feruant and suiect.

Cassillis.

Edinburgh, the thrid of December 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

LXXXIV.—LORD BLANTYRE TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 17, 1608.

MAY IT PLEIS 30UR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

To lett my feiknes thir tuentie dayis excuife maift humlie to 50 our hienes my lang delay in acquenting 50 our maiestie with that, quhilk, I perswade me, is cum or now to 50 our most facred earis, how haising be 50 our maiesteis most loving and gratious aduise, endit with 50 our maiesteis cousing the Erle of Athole anent his erldome, in presence of his nearest and best affected freindis to the standing of that house, and with thair approbatioun and allowance, as the minut of our appointment sent to 50 our hienes trustie counsalour and secretar, Sir Alex Hay, will mair at lenth informe 50 our maiestie, he notwithstanding, vpone the xxvij day of November last, retired him fra my companie to the Maister of Tullibardin,

the Laird of Graunt, and Mr James Stewart, commissiar of Dunkeld, all tryfted togidder to meit him quietlie at Sterling, and to transport him, as thay haif done, to the boundis of Athole, thair to diffurbe the peciabill and quiett eftait, quhilk be zour maiesteis commissionn we haid sattled in thais pairtis, and to vndoo, gif it culd ly in him, quhat is perfytted and concludit beturn him and me with his faid freindis aduife, leaving me in the mean tyme ingadgit for him in mair nor fourtie thowfand markis vpone the foirend of our bargane. In this defeing, quhat wrang is done to 5our maiestie 5our hienes will easselie confidder, gif it may pleis 50w to be rememberit, how, quhen it pleafed 30ur maieftie, out of 30ur gracious cair to that zour coufingis weill, to frie him of his ftraiteft waird, and to fend for him, and honour him with 30ur gracious prefence at Quhythall, your maiesteis pleasour at that tyme was to deliuer him to me befoir 30ur hienes darreft and most faithfull coufingis, the Duke of Lennox and the Erle of Dumbar, and to confyne him in my company till zour maiestie fould quiett his estait, commanding him in the mean tyme to gif me his hand in pledge, that he fould not escape till he wer fred be expres warrand from zour maiestie; and how I, at that time conceating that quhilk is fallin out, maift humlie prayed zour maiestie to tak his hand your felff to that effect, for he mycht brek to me, bot he wald be advyfit or he did fo to zour maieffie, qubilk zour hienes was pleafed to do accordinglie, with ane affurance to him, that as your maiestie had bene most gracious and fauorabill to him heirtofoir, and fo was myndit to continew, gif he wald follow and relie to zour advife and counfale in his turnis, and keip him quiett in my companie, fa gif he meanit to escape at ony tyme without zour hienes preuitie and warrand, zour maieftie wald leave him to him felff, and lett 30ur lawis haif courfe and executioun aganis him, quhilk, be a folempne aith, he fwore befoir zour maiestie neuer to incur be that occasioun. This I beleving to be so fuire a band as neidit no attendance on him for his keiping, was content to lett him rvde or go vpone his word quhair he thocht meit; lykas vpone the foirfaid day, requiring leave of me to ga to Glafgow for his paftyme, imbraceit that occasioun to keip his tryft at Sterling, and to accumpanie his tryfteris thairfra toward Athole, pretending to the warld for his excuife

3our maiesteis warrand and allowance for that course, cairles in the meantyme baith of his honour, ingadgit be his aith and hand to zour maiestie to the contrair, and of his dewtie to myselff, quhome for his honorabill and freindlie vfage thir twa zeiris bigane in my cumpanie, he myndis to requyte with ane vndouted wrak to me and myne, except zour hienes interpone zour prefent help for our releiff. Maist humlie thairfore befeiking your most gratious maiestie to lett this dowbill wrang done to sour hienes be that man and his intyferis to this course be recommendit in a special maner to your maiesteis counsal heir, defyring thame to tak fick fcharpe and fpedie ordour for the repairing thairof, as 30ur maiestie may find thame to respect it according to 30ur interest, and as your maiesteis awin cause; and, in the meintyme, to direct thair chairges to his convoy for his reprefenting befoir thame, and, failzeing thairof, to enter thair awin perfonis in feuerall wairdis till he be reprefented; quhairin zour maiestie fall baith mak thair attempt in this a terrour to all vtheris to abuse 30ur facred prefence to fic turnis in tyme cuming, and mak the commoun benefite of your hienes lawis effectuall for my releif of the great debt and troubill quhairin I haif involuit me for his occasioun. Hoiping for zour maiesteis maist gracious and spedie answer, maist humlie I tak my leiff, befeiking God to fend zour maiestie most prosperous and mony dayis, and ane happie regne,

Jour Maiesteis maift humbill subject and fervitour,

BLANTYRE.*

Edinburgh, the xvij of December 1608.

To the King his most facred Maiestie.

[•] Walter Stewart, the only son of the second marriage between Sir John Stewart of Minto and Margaret Stewart, daughter of James Stewart of Cardonald. He was bred up along with James VI. under Buchanan, and was much favoured by that monarch, from whom he obtained the priory of Blantyre. He held various high appointments, and on 10th June 1606 was created Lord Blantyre. Carmichael's Tracts on the Peerage, p. 28. He died 9th March 1617.

LXXXV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI. FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

Most Gratious and Sacred Souerane,

We haif reflaued, to oure exceiding grite conforte, that decreit and fentence gevin in fauouris of the Lord Coluillis oy,* in the queftioun and fubicct of Post Nati, agitat thair befoir the reuerend and learned iudgeis of that land, wherin, with all dew reuerence and most humble thankis, we acknowlege oure felffis infinitelie bundin to your facred maiestie for that gratious, respective, and confortable consideratioun and rememberance whilk your maiestie hes of ws, and of euerie thing whilk may importe the honnour, credite, and publict goode of this your maiesteis antient kingdome; wherof, as we haif daylie innumerable prooffis, and most lyvelie experienceis, so this lait fentence, whilk no doubt hes had the concurrence of your maiesteis most rair and excellent iudgement, is moir nor fufficient to affure ws, with what tender cair and faderlie consideratioun your maiestie doeth affect ws. We haif delyuerit that sentence and decreit to the Clerk of Register, to be putt be him in your heynes register, thair to remane as a recoird and memorie to the posteriteis of

^{*} James, second Lord Colvill of Culross, who succeeded his grandfather, the first Lord, in 1620. He was born probably after the accession of James to the throne of England, by which means, according to the decision of the judges, as one of the Postnati, he became entitled to the privileges of a natural-born Englishman. His Lordship having died without issue, in the year 1620, the title, in consequence of a remainder to the heirs-male whatsoever of the patentee, devolved on John Colvill, nephew to the first Lord, but who never assumed it, and it remained dormant until, by a resolution of the House of Peers, it was resolved, 27th May 1723, that "John, Lord Colvill of Culross, is entitled to the honour and dignity of Lord Colvill of Culross, and ought to be placed in the list or roll of peers, according to the date of the patent creating Sir James Colvill a peer, 20th January 1609." Robertson's Proceedings, p. 115.

your maiefteis benignitie, and vnfpeakable affectioun borne to this eftate. And fua, most humelie praying God still to manteyne and preserve your maieftie, with all your royall progenye, in all happynes and felicitie, we rest for ever

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedyent fubicctis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLS.
LOTHIANE.
P. ROLLOK.
CRAFORD.

A. Mar. A. L. Wchiltrie. Halyrudhous.

Edenburgh, 16 February 1609.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

LXXXVI,—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.
FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

PLEIS JOUR SACRIDE MAIESTIE,

Efter I had kiffit the Frenche king his hand, at the defyre of fum Catholicques heir, I went to fie the Poipis Nunce, and becaus 3 our hienes ambaffadour (quha difcharges ane faithfull and honorable dewtie to 3 our maieftie) had gottin intelligence by my knawledge, of fum fpeicheis that paft betuix the Nunce and me concerning 3 our maieftie, he thocht it expedient to fet doun the fame be letter. Bot becaus it war langfum to trobill 3 our princile caires with fo prolixt ane frivolous purpois, I have writtin the fame in ane letter to Sir Alexander Hay, 3 our

maiesteis fecretair, to the effect that, gif zour maiestei pleiss, ze may at ony iydill hour reid the same; for befyd that I am zour maiesteis subiect, the greit elemencie and savour I have resauit by vtheris at zour hienes handis, hes mair nor oblesit me to manteane zour maiesteis honour and reputatioun, at all tymes quhen occasioun presentis, quhairof, Godwilling, I sall never be forgetfull. So, praying God to grant zour maiestei aboist ws ane lang and prosperous regne, I humelie kiss zour hienes hand. I rest for ever

Zour Maiesties heumbill and faythfull subject,

ERLL OF ANGUSS.*

Pareis, this xvi. of Februarij 1609.

LXXXVII,—THE LAIRD OF EDZELL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 30, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOVERANE,

It may pleife your maieftie, being advertefit that the Erlle of Crawfurd† hes fent copyifs to your hienes of certane lettres wrettin be me to my fone, and recoverit be him within the howfe of Auchmwll, quhair my fone was wont to dwell, quhilkis informis, it was my will and command to flaye

His Lordship was, in July 1608, ordained to be excommunicated by the General Assembly.
 He had remained a prisoner in Glasgow for some time previously. Finding he could get no peace in his native country, he obtained leave from the King to retire to France.

[†] David, eleventh Earl, screed heir to his father, 28th June 1608. His improvident conduct and dissolute courses are noticed by Sir Thomas Hamilton (afterwards Earl of Melros and Haddington), in a letter to the King. Melros Papers, p. 97.

the wmquhile Lord of Spynie,* and fa platter and contriver of that onhappye and wyilld flachter, thinking thairbye to awert your maiefteis woontit fawor from me, and to difgrace me at the handis of all honest men, I have chofine and prefumit to tak the hardiment, humblye to pray your hieness nocht to giwe credit to any copye of anye lettre coming from the handis of my enemyifs, wnto the tyme the principall be tryit to be wrettin, fubscriwit, or directit be my self; for I protest in presence [of] God, I newer had anye fick innaturall and ongodlye interpryife in my heart, mekle lefs directit the doing thairof. And to mak this mair manifest to all the world, I have intentit improbatioune, that all liwing may know howe injustlye I am vfit be the Erlle of Crawfwrd, and howe he quha was the beginner of all thir trowblis, be the murder of my wmquhill brother, Sir Walter, onder traift, wald nowe eik craft to his crueltes, and in place of repentance, be fals calumnyes wald also bereawe me of my fame and lyiff; albeit, I have ewer beine, and yit am, maift willing to abyd all ordinar tryell of lawe. Farther, I most also regrait that the faid Erlle being laitlye at cowrt, hes privelye obtinit ane commissione wnto ane numer of his rioterifs and dependeris for ferching of my fone, and onder colour thairof, hes intentit nocht onlye to fureprife my house of Edzell, quhair my haill ewidentis, and of vther freindis, yit remanis, bot also to berawe me of my lyiff within my awin lwdging in Edinburgh, and to the effect foirfaid, wearifs daylie piftolettis and hagbwttis, prohibitit be your maiefteis actis, alledging ewer they ar feeking rebellis. For remaid quhairof, and my awin fecuritie, in respect of the reasonis foirfaidis, specialye because your maicsteis honorabill Priwye Counsell hes alreadye grantit ane verie ample commiffion, excepting onlye my howfe of Edzell, within the quhilk

[•] The first Lord Spynie was, in July 1607, slain by Sir David Lindsay on the streets of Edinburgh, in attempting to interfere between the Earl of Crawford and Sir David, the latter of whom was desirous of avenging the murder of his kinsman, Sir Walter Lindsay, who had been assassinated by the Earl. Lord Spynie's death was generally supposed accidental, and is so stated by the writers of the time; but if Lord Crawford's accusation is to be believed, it was the result of design. Considering the character of Crawford, however, it is much more likely that the alleged letters were fabrications of his own, the forgery and falsification of writings being then by no means uncommon. Indeed, it is with reluctance we are compelled to admit, that the Scotish noblemen of that period, with some few exceptions, were utterly devoid of moral principle, and provided they attained their object, cared little as to the means employed.

I have fund cautione nocht to recept my fone, nor anye of theife rebellis, onder the paine of ten thowfant merkis toties quoties, I will maift humilye praye your maiestie to direct ane warrant to your hieness Priwye Counfell of this countrie, to fufpend the last priwatlye obtinit commissione, as your maiestie williawe me free of that schaddowe, be the quhilk, my ondeferuit enemye crawis my lyiff and land; for vtherwayis the counfell, for the reverence they carve to that commissione sevnged by your hieness, will nocht mell thairwith. Hoping for your maiesties woontit protectione, nowe fa mekle the rather that I am fo onkyndlie, onnaturalye, and withowt deferwing, triblit be that howfe, of the quhilk ewer of ald, nocht onknawin to your maiestie, in thair trowblifs I have sa weill meritit, vtherwayis, yf I fand nocht fecuritie hier, I wilbe forcit, altho be fea, inrespect of my aidge and inhabilitie, vpon my knees to beg the faming at your heichness felf. Thws maift humblye kiffing your hieness handis, and praying the Eternall lang to preferve your maieftie and royall progenie, I rest ewer

Your facred Maiesteis maift humble and obedient fubie& and fervitour,

Edzell.

Edinburgh, 1609, penult Martij.

To the King his Maiestie.

LXXXVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK SYMSONE TO THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

April 3, 1609.

RYCHT REVEREND BRETHRING IN CHRIST JESUS,

I dowbt nocht bot ze will haiwe my abfence from this prefent meitting excuifit, in regaird of my infirmetie, zitt I thocht meitt in this few lynis by wrett, to acquent zour w[orfchippis] with the behaviour of my Lord Marques of Huntlie fence the counfall day, hauldin at Sterling the xxiij. of Marche last bypast, viz.; my Lord Marques fend for me, and confarrit in modest and quyat maner with me anent the heidis of

religioun, contravertit betuix ws and the Romane kirk. Quhat I haiwe obtenit be conference, it is to fehort a tyme to mak ane perfyte rekening to 3our worschippis. Alwayis, the first fruittis 3e fall pleise to ressaiwe, fubfcryvit be his lordfchippis handwrett, anent the heid of justificatioun, and tak fuitche wyfe confideratioun thairanent, as 30ur worfchippis fall think expedient, and inftruct me by your returnit ansuer with your best advyfe. Forder, his lordfchip hes beine content to heare the word preatchit be me in the caftell of Sterling, his lady, childring, and ferwandis, also being prefent, except ane lady quhome infirmetie with wery neir approching hir birth did excuife. Alfo, his lordfchip is content (always licience being purcheffit from his maiefteis honorable counfale by 50ur intercessioun) to cum downe to the towne of Sterling, and to heare the word preatchit thair, quhilk appeirandlie falbe greatter proffeit to his lordschip, les panis till ws, and greitter contentment to the pepill. His lordfchip alfo is in guid efperance, and hoip to haiwe the greittar mitigatioun of the feveretie and rigour to be viit aganis his lordfchip, the neirar that he approitchis to imbraice that weretie of Christ, quhilk is professit in this land, and preatchit and allowit be the lawis of oure cuntrey; and in this poynte, I will intreate zour worschippis that thair may be sum lytill prorogatioun of tyme, until zour worschippis sie quhat farder fruittis may be reapit of this begun conference, and heiring of the word foirfaid. Nocht willing to truble zour worschippis with forder, committis zow and 50wre trawellis to the bliffing of the Almichtie. From Sterling, the thrid day of Apryle 1609.

Zour brother to command in Christ,

P. Symsone.

The articles fubfcrived by my Lord Marques war penned be me, and fubfcrived be his lordfchip efter deliberatione.

To the rycht reverend in Chrift Jefus, the Commiffionaris of the Generall Affemblie convenit at Edinburghe, &c. &c.

LXXXIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI. May 16, 1609.

Most Gratious and Sacred Souerane.

The continuall and importune complayntis, fra tyme to tyme exhibited vnto ws by your maiesteis poore distressit subject, Thomas Hendirfoun, and the confideratioun of the grite iniquitie committit vpoun him, vnder the name and authoritie of the King of Spayne (with whome your facred maiestie at that tyme, and as vitt, holdeth firme amitie and freindfchip), doeth not a litle greve ws; for he being in his lauchfull trade of mercheandice, within the dominionis of the faid king, in the yeare of God, whair he expected not onlie a peceable commerce, trafficque, and intercourse of his goodis, bot suche other officious dewyties of kyndnes and freindfchip as ar vfuall to lauchfull trafficquaris: nochtwithflanding, his fchip and goodis wer feafit vpoun be force, and him felff committed to the gallayes, quhill he wes conftrained to ferve, and after foure yearis feruice under the faid king, his fchip and most pairt of his equippage wer cassin away and perished, to his vther miserie and vndoing: wherin, althocht fome determination hes bene tane be the faid kingis officiaris, the value of his fchip and goodis proportioned and fett doun, the tymes of his feruice accompted and rated, and his whole caus promiffed to be putt to ane end, and dew redres and fatiffactioun accordinglie to be maid, yitt litle or no redres is maid at all, bot fuche fchifting delay is vfed in this bufynes, by those who hes the charge thairof, as is not agreable with conscience, equitie, nor justice, nor with the honnour, credite, and reputatioun of thair placeis, whairthrow your maiesteis poore fubiect, after lang attendance, without hoip or appeirance of redres, is returnit, having fpent and confumed vpoun the perfute of this bufynes. alfmuche, and moir nor the valu of his fchip and goodis extendit to, and

is now reduceit to extreame miferye, having the charge and burdyne of a wyffe and a nymerous familie, and houshald of young childrene, whose caife is to be pityed, that being fometymes in goode rank, and amangs the cheif and best of this towne, and one of the first marcheant venturaris in this your maiesteis kingdome, is now deiectit and vndone, not having fufficient mantenance for his poore housholde and familye. Vpoun confideratioun whairof, we haif tane the bouldnes, in all reuerence to recommend him vnto your facred maiestie, and humelie to intreate your heynes to caus propone this mater to the Spanishe ambassadour thair refident, laying befoir him the grite iniquitie committed vpoun your maiefteis faid fubiect within the tyme of peace, the difdanefull fchifting of him fra hand to hand with continuall delayis, importing in effect, ane plane refufall and denyall of justice, and that thairfoir the faid ambaffadour may be moved to tak fome courfe, how your maiesteis distressit subject may be redreffit, alfweele of his loffis, as of the chargeis and expenffis fustenit be him, in perfute thairof. Bot heirin fubmitting oure fimple and waik opinioun, and what forder your maiestie thinkis meete to be done in this mater, vnto your heynes most rair and excellent judgement, and humelie craving your maiesteis pardoun for our presumptioun, we end with oure humble and hairty prayeris to God, to preferue your heynes and your royall progenye in helth and felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the xvi. day of May 1609.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedyent fubicctis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELL^S.
Ross.
Doumbar.
Jo. Prestoun.

HALYRUDHOUS.
J. TORPHECHIN.
WINTOUN.
PERTHE.

To the King his most facred and excellent Maiestie, &c. &c.

XC .- WILLIAM FULLARTOUN OF THAT ILK TO KING JAMES VI.

Most Gracious and Sacred Souerayne,

The confortable rememberance and experience of zour maiesteis most gratious fauour at all tymes towardis me, and the consideratioun of zour facred maiesteis naturall inclinatioun and religious dispositioun to abhor and deteift iniquitie and wrong, in all degreis and rankes of perfounes, hes maid me 3our hymble and diftrest subject, bauld in this my calamitie, to have my recourfe vnto zour facred maiestie, and in all submissioun and humilitie to crave 50ur maiesteis protectioun aganis the malice and iniurie of my Lord Erle of Craufurde, who, being vnmyndfull of the mony guid offices done be me to his vmquhile father, in whofe fervice I fpent about fourtie zeiris of my aige, befyd mony guid offices and fervice done be me to him felff, baith befoir his fatheris deceife and fenfyne,* lykas I inftantlie ftand ingadged for gryt fowmes of money as cautioner for him, and fowmes of money of my awin particularlie lent to him, 3itt he hes, without ony caufe or occasioun, confaved so heigh a difpleafour aganis me, as no thing can content him bot my lyfe, whiche he hes focht at the vttirmost of his possibilitie; lyke as now laitlie in this last moneth of October, I being ryding out of your maiesteis toun of Dundie, in peceable and quyet maner, luiking for no harme, he, accompanyed with the number of tuenty horse with hagbuittis, pistollettis, and fwordis, fett on me, chaissit and persewit me to the said toun, and throch the toun to the mercat crofs, schott and dischairgit pistollettis at me, and miffing me, hes fehott ane gentill man callit Gedeon Guthrie, in the body, and the bullet stikking in his bodie, and can not be gottin out as zit, to the gryt parrell of his lyfe, fwa that thair is no refidence for me

David, tenth Earl of Crawford, died 22d November 1607, and was succeeded by his son,
 David, the eleventh Earl, one of the most unprincipled noblemen of his time (see pages 161, 162),
 who dying in 1621, the earldom devolved on Henry, the next heir-male.

at my awin home, nor in na pairt of the cuntrie, bot with the extreame hazerd and perrell of my lyfe. In confideratioun whairof, I most humblie beseik 50ur facred maiestie to recommend my distrest estait and conditioun to the lordis of 50ur maiesteis Previe Counsale, and specialie to my Lord Chancellar, willing thame to tak suche ordour thairin as in suretie I may inioy the beneseit of our maiesteis peax, and be secured from the malice and iniurie of the said Erle of Crausfurde, and incasse I can not find sufficient suretie heir, I will be compellit now, in my auld aige, to repair toward 50ur facred maiestie for my releis. And sua, humelie craveing pardoun of 50ur facred maiestie for this my presumptioun, and with my humble prayers vnto God, recommending 50ur facred maiestie, with all 50ur royall progenie, vnto his devyne and satherlie protectioun, I rest for ever

Joure Maiefteis most humble and obedient fubiect and fervitour,

Wm. Fullartoun
Of that Ilk.

[No date.]

To the King his most facred and excellent Maiestie.

XCI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

July 5, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I have noe forder for the prefent to aduerteis your highnes concerning the estaitt of this your majesties kingdome, but that this last

counfall daye, the 6 of this monethe, the Erle of Ergylle cauffed prefent the heades of two notable malefactours in the Hielands, whoe had done manye ewill turnes and wrangis thir yeares bygayne. I fpair to truble viour highnes with thair onpleafand, onworthie, and ongodlie naymes, bot I have written the fame to Sir Alexander Haye. I think my felfe also bound in dewtie to testifie to your majestie the great contentment and fatiffactioun your highnes twa chaplaynes, Doctor Goodwin and Doctor Milwaird, hes gevin to all this cuntrie in thair doctrine, boithe in learning, eloquence, and godlines. Wee may weill all commend and admire thame, bot wee have ower few to follow or imitate thame. Alwayes we have all obligatioun of thankes vnto your facred majestie, for directing at tymes fic of viour ferwands heir to latt viour highnes fubjects in this kingdome (who leiwes and professis that same estaitt and lyist) haist some taifte and effaye what courfe thaj fould follow, what ground thaj fould kepe, and how that fould discharge thair dewtie best in thair vocatioun; for I feir indeid thair be toe manye off ours heir that braggs toe mutche of thair vocatioun, and knowes toe lytle what belonges thairtoe. It may be feyne your maift gracious majestie omittis naa convenient moyen to draw and allure thame to the richt waye.

I have red owir, and pervsed your facred majesties booke laitlie come to licht,* and worthie of ewirlasting licht, all wisdome, all doctrine, all courtessie, all godlines, policie, and ciuilitie, schynes in the same.

I remember it is abowe 25 yeares fince I concludit ane epigrame vnto yiour facred majeftie, with this diffitche, when yiour highnes was than begynning with your poefies,

Macte animo, Rex, ifta tuum genus, ifta decebat Laus, famam geftis quærere, et ingenijs.

I entered than, being young my felfe, in that opinioun off your maiesties valour be theese premices of your tender spreit, whereoff I have parsawed fensyne sic strenthe and vigour aryse, bothe in action and speculation,

Could this book be "Triplici nodo, triplex cuneus: Or an Apologie for the Oath of Allegiance," &c. of which the first edition appeared in 1607, and the second in 1609?

as I am to my great contentment confermed in my awin poeticall diuinatioun, and hopes in my auld dayes to onderstand the haill warld shall admire and reverence the same. Sua, praying the Eternall God lang to preserve yiour majestie in all healthe and prosperitie, I end this present with the maist humbill kiss of yiour sacred hand, continowing still to my lyses end

Your maift facred Maiesties maift humbill and obedient subject and feruitour,

DUNFERMELINE.

Edinburght, 8th Julij 1609.

XCII.—JANE STEWART TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 3, 1609.

SIR,

I humblie crawes 30ur maiestie gratious fauour and pardoun, that I haif tane the bauldnes to lament my hard estait, having my loving husband tane frome me, and left with tuelf bairnes, lyttill rent to leiwe vpone, and burdenit with gret debt, that it may pleis 30ur maiestie to remember of my umquhile husbandis faithfull feruice wnto 30ur maiestie, and of 30ur gratious countenance toward me at all tymes. It pleasit 30ur maiestie to be euer fauorabill wnto my husband, and to releyue him of the debt contractif for my brother, quhilk releyuit no debt of his awin, bot left him in debt boith in Ingland and Scotland. Sir, I haif 50ung weimen reddy to marie, and 30ur maiesteis servand my douchter, Margratt, is marreit not without ane burden to me and my sone. Humblie recommending my estait wnto 30ur maiesteis gratious sauour and helpe, and 30ur guid ansueir, quhairin my onlye confort restis vndir God: maist

humblie kyffing 50ur maiefteis hand, I tak my leiff, praying the Eternall to grant 50ur maieftei monye happie and long dayis,

Be 50ur Maiesteis maift humble and obedient fervand,

JAIN STEWART.

Pitcarlye, the 3d of August 1609.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie of Gret Brytane.

XCIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

August 12, 1609.

Maist Sacred Souerane,

It pleafed viour majestie, be viour prencelie and fauorable letter, to recommend vnto me to concurre with the Erle of Doumbar in fetting furthe off your highnes ferwice in this kingdome in all fic directiouns as your maiestie had gevin to the said Erle, quhilk gevis me the occasioun to tak the bauldnes to vritte thir few lynes vnto yiour maist gracious maiestie at this tyme. Your highnes directionnes first to the conventioun haldin in Januar laft, nixt to our laft fessioun of parliament, and dyvers tymes to your fecreit counfall, war fwa wyfe, fwa worthie, and fwa euidentlie fett doun for the weill and wealthe of this eftaitt, as nather myne nor naa particular mannis concurfe could be requifite to adwance or proeure the fame to be imbraiced. Naa good fubiect, nor weill affected to his cuntrie, could vtherwyfe doe, nor acknawledge himfelfe in hiecheft degrie oblifched vnto yiour maiestie for your prencelie cair, in satling swa good ordonrs and policie amongs ws. To this joyned the faid Earle of Doumbar, his dexteritie in vfing the faidis directiounes, in gewing all honest men dew satisfactioun in all sic doubtis as micht aryse concerning the faidis directiounes, and alwayes making all men cleirlie refolwed of yiour facred maiesteis constant, continowall, intere, and zealous affectioun

to the weele of this kingdome, and to ewirie man in particular, according to his rank, merites, and plaice, maide me werie lytle adoe, and my burding werie licht in your maiefteis ferwice at this tyme, and far inferiour to fic notice and acknowledgement as hes pleafed your maieftie geive me be your letter for my goodwill, in fludeing to bring your prencelie and royall deffeyngs to dew fuccefs and accompleifchement.

Befides all other notable good ferwice, whilk this noble man, the Erle of Doumbar, hes done vnto your maiestie, my dewtie in my plaice vnder your highnes heir bindes me to fignifie this vnto yow, that he hes had fpeciall cair to reprefs, baithe in the incountrie and on the Bordours, the infolence of all the proud bangifters, oppressours, and nembroithis,* but regaird or respect to ony of thame, hes purged the Bordours of all the cheiffest malefactouris, rubbars, and brigantis as war wount to regnne and triumphe thair, als clein, and be als great wisdome and policie as Hercules fometymes is written to have purged Augeas, the king of Elide his efcuries, and be the cutting aff be the fword of juffice, and be your maiesteis authoritie and lawis, the Laird of Tynwell, Maxwell, findrie Douglassis, Jhonestounes, Jardanis, Armestrangis, Betisounes, and sic others magni nominis luces in that brokin pairtis, hes randered all theefe wayes and paffages betuix your maiefties kingdomes of Scotland and Ingland als free and peciable, as is recorded Phoebus in auld tymes maide frie and oppen the waves to his awin oracle in Delphos, and to his pythicque playes and ceremonyes be the destructioun of Phorbas and his Phlegiens, all theiwis, voleurs, bandftiers, and throat cutters. pairtis ar now, I may affure viour majeftie, als lawfull, als peciable, and als quyett, as anye pairt in any civill kingdome of Christianitie.

All this is done quyetlie, fuddanlie, and in fchort fpaice, but anye harme, truble, hazaird, or greiff to onye good fubject. All is done in your facred maiefteis nayme and authoritie: all be your prencelie commandement and inftructioun. Baithe he and the haill kingdome yeildis vnto yiour maieftie continowallie, infinit thankis and praife thairfoir. As he is, and continowallie profeffis to be, your majefties ferwand, and your

[·] Nimrods? probably meant to designate moss-troopers.

creature, his actionnes ar all yiouris: the effects, the praife, the confequence thairof, ar to redound to your facred majeftie, as all the waters, baithe great and finall, returns to the great ocean fea.

In the incountrie, where occasioun hes bene presented of riotts or offences in ony personnes esteymed of the misrewlie or bangister kynd of peple, as we call thame; as Threasaurer, he has swa pwneist and wied the maist pairt of thame, as I hope shall breid ws all heir great ease for a lang whylle; for I think sic Centaures, sic Gerionis, sic Busyris of Egypte, and sic Arithees, shall eschiew to come in sic a Hercules waye or daunger, wha, be yiour majesteis strenthe and wise directioun, can decyfre and goe beyound all thair craft and subtiliteis, and can contemne and owirthraw all thair wayne boast and pride.

All this I doubt not bot your maift gracious majestie hes bene informed of mair particulerlic at feuerall tymes be your ordinair fecretarie, Sir Alexander Haye, whometo all is ewir vrittin particularlie, in all our proceedings in counfall, and in all others affairis of importance in this kingdome.

This I have thocht necessair to vritte, onlie to testifie vnto your maiestie what praise and honour it is to yiow, and what euident demonstratioun of your royall wisdome the choyse and imployment of sic ane officear and instrument, in sic royall charges; wha hes the witt to consawe, the cair, ingyne, and moderatioun to conwoye, joyned with the curage, moyen, and valour to execute and performe the same. This, in all humilitie taking my leive, with a kiss of your royall and sacred hand, and praying the Eternall for youer majesteis continowance and daylie incress in all prosperitie, rests for ewir

Your facred Maiesties maist humbil and affectionat subject and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.*

Edenburght, 12th Augustj 1609.

This letter is inimitable, and must bave suited the fancy of the King exactly. The gross
flattery and superabundance of classical allusion would be equally palatable. No wonder that
Lord Dunfermline was a favourite.

XCIV.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

October 30, [1609?]

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTY,

At my last pairting from Scotland, the tyme conteinit in the charge was onlie xx dayes, viz. from the 18 of October to the 10 of Nouember exclusive, to passe out of your maiesties dominions in Scotland, fo that I could not have fufficient tyme to establish fick solide ordour with my affaires as was requifite for fo lang abfence. Nou, feing it hes pleafet your hienes to grant me the benefite of my leaving during the reft of my dayes, I will most humbly entreate your maiesty vpon my kneis, be this prefent, that I may have licence to returne to Scotland for fome fyue or fax monethes only, vpon fick conditions as your maiefty pleafes till eniovne, that I may put ordour to the diforderet effate of my leaving, whilk can not be done without my awen prefence to my great loffe, and is now all out of forme and ordour, and that I may give my last gudnicht to my contrey, familie, and friendes, for I am become now auld and feakly, and within fchort tyme will be vnable to trauell. Gif it fall pleafe your maieftie to grant me this grace, of your princely clemency, the caution for my returne fall ftand, as they ar alreddy obliged, and I will think my felfe bound in confcience to pray daylie for your maiesties prosperous regne and royall posterity. Thus, kiffing, with all humility, your princely hand, I reft now and ever

Your Maiesties most humble and faithfull fubicet,

ERLL OF ANGUSS.

Paris, the penult of October [1609?]

XCV.—OATH TENDERED TO THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY AND THE EARL OF ERROL.

NOVEMBER 13 AND 17, 1609.

The Oathe vnderwritten being offered to the Marques of Huntley and Erle of Erroll, the one vpoun the xiijth of November, the other vpoun the xvijth of the fame moneth in this inflant yeir of God, j^{\alpha} vi^{\ceil} and nyne yeiris; and they haueing fullye refolued in there confciencis with every poynte of the fame, with all dew folemnitie (the holye Ewangell tuiched) humblye vpoun there kneis, in prefence of many noblemen, bifhoppis, and vtheris of goode forte, did tak this oathe efterfpecifiet:—

- 1. As I acknowledge my felf to be his maiefties naturally borne fubiect, befyides my innumerable obligationes to his perfoun, fo do I, in the faithe of a trew Christiane, protest and awowe to be evir trew and afauld to his maiestie and his posteritye, nevir to conceale the hairme of him and his estaite, and nevir to spaire the hazairdeing of lyife and estaite in assisting his maiestie and his posteritye, fo far as sall lye in my power, agains whatsoevir enemye, invaider or invasioun, ather domesticall or forrayne, vpoun whatsoevir quarrell or pretext of the invaider, or of the pretext or caus of invasioun, yea, though it wer for caus of religioun.
- 2. And therefoir, I do in fpeciall confefs and proteft, that if any warre fuld happin to fall out betuix his maieftie and his fucceffour and the Pope, or if any publick invafioun or private attempt fuld be executed agains his maieftie or his flaite, aither by the Pope's directioun, advyife, afiftance, or overfight, I am, in that caice, bounde, bothe in confcience and dewtye, to affifte his maieftie to the vttermoste of my power: Lyikeas, heirby I sweare and promise, in the faithe of a trew Catholicke Christ-

tiane, fo to do, notwithstanding whatsoevir allwerementis, threatningis, or prohibitiouns of the Pope to the contrarye.

- 3. And in caice it fuld happin that the Pope fuld excommunicat his maieftie or his fucceffouris, and loufe his fubiectis from there fidelity; nevertheles I do not hold it anywayis laugfull, ather for me, or any other of his maiefties fubiectis, to give the Pope any obedience therein, or to fwarue in the leafte jotte of our naturall dewtye and fubiectioun vnto him.
- 4. For nather do I holde it laugfull for the Pope, or any perfoun whatfoevir that lives vpoun the earth, to dethrone or depoife kingis, or to loufs there fubicctis from there fidelitye, or anywayes to meddle with temporall authoritye of princes, notwithstanding any respect of religioun or whatsoevir other spiritual respect.
- 5. For I am perfuadeit in my confcience, that kinges ar the immediats lieutennantis of God vpoun earthe, and that there calling is directlye from God, and therefoir ar fubiect to nane vnder God himfelf, nor bounde to give accompt of any poynte of there governament to any vnder God.

Renunceing and disclaimeing with my hearte all that ambitious vsurpatioun of popes above the temporall authoritye of emperours and kinges; vtterlye condemning alswell the doctrine as practife thereof. And of all these poyntes I am in my conscience persuadeit, without any forte of æquivocatioun, whiche doctrine I abhorre as the doctrine of lies: nather do I think that any pope can have power to dispense with any manis conscience, in any of these former poyntes.

HUNTLYE. Erroll.

[•] Balfour observes in his Annals, pp. 33, 34, that in February 1610, these two Lords still remained in confinement; "for the King (as the treuth was) thought that he could not preserve the publick peace better, then be keiping these birdes of prey so caidget wpe."

XCVI.-GEORGE LORD GORDON TO KING JAMES VI.

MOST DREAD SOUERAINE,

Since it did please zour maiestie, out of zour gratious fauor, to call me to the attendance heir on the princes feruice, which I hold on of the greatest pointes of all wordlie happines, in regarde of your maiesties good mynd towards me zour majefties vnworthie fubject and feruant: and finding fome thortours in my flay, quhairat your majestie no doubt will admire and few will creedit, I am in this, my forced necessitie, compelled to have recours to that fontaine of zour maiesties gratious favor and protectione whiche I have ever found, and still does expect at your maiesties hand. My father by all licklyhood feemes cairles of me, I dar fay no forther, perhapes accompting me vnworthie of his regaird as beeng ane hæretic in his conceit; and 3it no ftrait, nather adverfitie, fall divert me from that impressione of Godes trew scare, the profession whairof, I hope, according to my promife made to your majestie, to give ane constant proofe to my verie last breath. Prouision I have none els, and my remaining heir in this fort without money or means to defray creditours, befydes euedent harme to myfelf, must neids in respect of my birth, be fome impeachement to the honour of my native countrie. I have communicat my just greifs to my Lord Duc of Lennox, my unckle, and to 3our majesties most worthie subject the Erle of Dumbar, I am most defyrous to know zour majesties plesoure, whairunto without regaird of perrell or inconvenient I will ever conforme myfelf, only wreiting thefe lynes (crauing pardoun of 3our majestie for this my presomption), to testifie zour majestie of my precent caice, quhiche, by the Duc of Lennox and the berar, may be fegnified at more lenth. And wishing at God that I micht

haue occasione to testifie my deutifull affection with the pryce of my lyf, I humbly pray the Almichtie God euer to blifs 3our maiestie with all happines, and I rest

Jour Maiesties most humble subject and feruitour,

GEORGE GORDOUNE.

[No date.]

XCVII.—ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 13, 1609.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

May it pleas 50ur most facred maiestie, I haue of tymes complained of the insolence and heavye oppressione committed wpon my tennents and lands be the Clangregour, and have beeine forced to be silent this tyme bygaine, hoping that sometyme thair sould beine ane end thairof: Bot now finding myself disappointed, and thame entered to theire former courses, have taine occasione to acquent 50ur facred maiestie thairwith, befeeking 30ur maiestie to haue pitie and compassionne wpon ws 50ur maiesties obedient subjectes, and remanent poire pepill quha sufferes, and to provyd tymous remeid thairin; and that 30ur maiestie may be the better informed in the particular, I have acquent 50ur maiesties secretare thairin, to quhois sufficiency referring the rest, and craveing pardoune for importuning 50ur maiestie, I leive in all humanitie in 50ur maiesties most facred hands.

Jour facred Maiesties most humble and obedient subiect,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN off Lufs.

Rofdo, the 13 of November 1609.

XCVIII.—THE INHABITANTS OF THE LATE BORDOURS OF SCOTLAND
TO KING JAMES VI.

Thay that wrytts of the qualeteis of ane guid kyng compairs him to the fon, qui non est alius pauperi, quam diuiti, fed omnibus communis. Rycht fo, most gratious fouerane, 3e ar our fon, the beames of quhois fauour and luif heathe equallie ouerfchaddouit zour hienes haill realmes. Erafmus, De Inftitutione Principis, fayis, Quid eft aliud regnum, nifi magna familia? Quid rex, nifi plurimorum pater? And, indeid, zour maiestie, withe the eyis of zour prudence, justice, and benignetic, as ane cairfull maifter of ane famelie, or rather as ane loowing father, hes lookit narrowlie into the behauiour of those that inhabit every part of zour hienes realmes, but especiallie to the behauiour of those that inhabits that part of your majefteis realm of Northbritane, fumtym callit the Bordors, quhom zour hienes hes bene thir dyuers zeirs bygane fumtym threatnyng by justice, fumtyms alluryng by lenitie, to that dew obedience quhilk becomes trew and faithfull fubicets: And to this effect, it pleafed 5our hienes to gif command to your officiers in those parts, to play the part of expert hufband men, qui noxas frugibus plantas herbafque conuellere atque in totum extirpare folent. Neuirtheles thay ar fo far frome doing of thair deutie to God and zour hienes, that all reverence and feare of punisment fet afyd, thay ar returnit (vt canis ad vomitum) to thair auld accostomet infolences and vicket lyf: quhairthrow wee, that ar of the most peacebill and obedient fort of subjects within those parts, leifs at this hour in als greit feare of our lyfs and goods, as ewer we did at ony tyme heertofoir, quhen grittest disobedience rang amangs ws. Quhairfoir we have fend up thir our greifs to 3our most facred maiestie, at this tyme, in all humilitie, befeikand zour hienes to play the part of ane holsome physician to ws, qui membrum putrefactum incidi atque in totum

[•] There is no date-it has consequently been placed at the end of the year 1609.

eradicari iubet, ne aliam corporis partem labefactare aut corrumpere possit. It heathe pleased 3our hienes to appoint the Erle of Dumbar to be grit commissioner for repressing of the enormeteis of those people. guho, indeid, heathe bene ane faithfull executor of zour hienes pleafour and will. Bot, as Cicero fayis, in Oratione pro Cluentio, thay ar lyk to the beafts of the feild, quæ fame dominante ad eum locum vbi aliquando paftæ funt reuertuntur. For the lytill intermission of Justice Courts quhilk heathe bene fynce his lordships departur and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham fo infolent, that thair is nothing quhilk thay dar not attempt. The deshonour of God, his word and ministrie baithe practizet; difobediens to zour hienes lawis no falt; for the Erle of Dumbar (fay thay) and his deput commissioners will not intermedle with ony maters, bot only withe new thifts. He that can rais fyr fecretlie and wnknawin, fall not leif it wndon. Wyld incefts, adultereis, conuocations of the lieges, schutting and wearing of hagbuts, pistolets, and lances, dayly bludfcheds, oppression, and disobedience in civill maters, nather ar nor hes bene punischit. Gif ony peacebill man seu ony of the clannes to the law for thair lands or goods, he is incontinent threatnit of his lyf, and gif he obtene decreit befoir the ordinar judge, quho dar put the famyn to executione? for he dar not poynd for feir of gritter inconuenients: And as for hornyng, thair is no moir accompt maid of the going to the horne than to the aillhous; for guhen commission is obtenit to the gaird to tak the rebells (quhilk is our last refuge), Sir William Cranston refuils to execute the famyn, becaus it belangis not to his commission. and my Lord of Scone comes feildome to counfell with his gaird, for ather thay ar difperft throw the contrie, and faid to be imployet in vther commissions, or ellis the haill foume contenit in the commission will not content my lord for his guidwill, and the gaird for thair expenfs, or wtherwayis thay ar attending vpon his lordship and his privat effeares; and gif at ony tyme ane commission be presentit to ony of the gaird, thay will not execute the famyn quhill his lordfhip be foirfene and gif tham his warrand, quhilk is moir accountet of and moir difficill to obtene than the counfells; and be this meanes, gif the rebell be his freind, or ane man quhome he fauours, his lordship is accustomet to mak him adverteisment

be his letter, that the gaird is to be directit aganes him. The brenches of clannes ar begun agane to renew ligges and bands amangs themselfs, and to conucne in vnlauthfull maner in euery on of thair particulers. Gif diligent fearche war maid throwche euery paroche, thair fuld be ane grit number fund of ydle people without ony calling, industric, or lauthfull meanes to leif by, except it be voon the blude of the poorest and most obedient fort. Wthers, agane, that seames to be of the better fort, ar fo full of pryd, invy, and malice, that, as Plutarche favis, quod inter Agathallos et Acanthylides tantum est odium, vt si fanguis eorum immifceatur, continuo feparent fe rurfum et diffiliant hinc inde. Thir men, etiamfi aliquando pro rerum vfu coniungantur, durat tamen odium naturale, in fik fort that gif four or fyue of tham convene tham felfs in ane aillhous, as thair custome is, thay fall not part without contention and bludschede. Sir, lat no man diffaue zour maiestie, and fay that the cuntrie is brocht to quyetnes and good ordour; for, as the Lorde leines, thair was not fik appearence of wnquyetnes, fik blud [fchedes], nor fik ftealling, fynce 3our hienes happie going in Ingland, as is [at this] prefent. It is not the execution of a few fymple and poore men, fik as was done laitlie baithe be the barrones of Nydisdaill and Galloway. quhen gritter . . . war ouerfene, that will bring the contre to that conformetie zour hsienes defyres]: Aranearum telas corui perrumpunt muscæ vero implicantur. Thay [war verie] blodie mouthet hands all thair tyme, and leiders of companeis of th . . . broken men, and as zet dreimes of nothing bot of blude; thift and oppression gois frie, sum of tham clemand to remiffions, and never a partie fatiffyit. Vthers alledgis thay have gottin ane overfycht at the ernest sute of sum men thair freinds. and others agane ar feruants and dependers opon [fum] of the deput commissioners, quhome thay imploy in fum feruice, as the physician vsis fel hienæ et phocæ coagulum aliafque pessimarum ferarum partes of grit difeafes. Thir fort of peopill ar not meit to leif in ane ciuil [common] wealthe, fed roftro ferreo, vt herbæ radicitus euelluntur a vinea . . . thair posteretie eradicandi funt : for, coccitis pullus, as Plinius . . . leuerit cum fit nothus, tamen legitimos deuorat, vnaque matrem skilfull musycian thinks it not sufficient, in cithara in vno ta concentum efficere, fed vniuerfi percutiendi funt numerofe et Euen fo we ar perfuadet, that it is not zour hienes pleafour to pu[t ane or] tua of the clannes of those parts to ane tryall, bot that every one of tham, the hieft to the lawest, fould be layed to the tuichstane of justice. Agap[itus Dia-] conus, in ane treatife de Officio Regis, fayis, vt folis partes, funt illustrare orbem, fic principis wirtus est egenorum misereri; and the experience we haue had of your hienes luif and pitie toward your diffressit subjects, hes geven full affurance to ws, that your hienes will caus all the enormeteis of those parts be repressit; and that frequent courtes be kepit amangs ws, ager enim diu non profcissus syluescit, ac passim innumeras vepres producit. The intermission of justice courts, and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham to put on thair old habits; for thay may be comparet to the adament fton, qui folo fanguine maceratus frangitur, and man be vfit as the phyfician dois thois, qui crudo et indigefto funt flomacho, quibus amarum prodest absynthium. Quhairfoir, we maist humblie entreat 50ur most facred majestie, that command be gewen to your hienes officiers, to affift zour poore and diftreffit fubiects in those parts, alfweill in thair ciuill as criminall actiones; and that thay play not the part of euill craftifmen, qui femper relinquunt locum castigationi, vt legulet occasionem liti. And fo, in all humeletie, we tak our leif, befeikand the Allmyghtie God to grant zour maieftie ane long, happie, and profperous reingne ouer WS.

Zour Maiesteis most humble and obedient subjects,

THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAIT BORDERS OF SCOTLAND.*

To the Kyngs most facred Maiestie.

[•] From the style of this interesting document, and the numerous Latin quotations, one might conjecture that it came from the pen of Lord Dunfermline.

XCIX.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI. FEBRUARY 15, 1610.

PLEIS JOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Sins my zoungest zeiris, neuer hauing beine in us to disobey zour facred maiestis uill and directioun, in no temporall thing guhatfumeuir, I have nou transgressit thos limits for greater testimonic of my humble affectioun and obediens. Yea, I uill go uerray neir the hazart of my faull, befor I gif 3our facred maiettie any just occasioun athaer of grudge or miftruft againis me: and gif I did utheruavis, I uar the moft ingrait in the earth, confidering be quhou monie obligatiouns I am detbound to your facred maiestis fauour towards me heirtofor, quhilk lyis neuer in my fimple pouar till acquit, albeit I fuld uair the last drop of my blood in 3our facred maiestis feruis in recompans. And seing my conformitie nou procedis most of my affectioun, I hoip for the forder fauour at your facred maiestis hands, remitting me aluayis to your facred maiestis wontit fauour and clemencie touards me, quhilk I fall euer pres to conferue by all humble deuetie of feruis, quhilk may ly in ane fimple fubicets pouar to performe, as I have informit this berar, Sir Thomas Ker, my feruitour, to delait unto 3our facred maiestie at greater lenth, gif it uill pleis zour facred maiestie till do him that honour as to heir him. Sua, eftir the kiffing most humble of 5our facred maiestis hand, I uill reft

> Sour most facred maiestis euer humble fubiect and most affectionat feruitour to the deith,

> > HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this 15 of Februar 1610.

To the Kings most facred Maiestie.

C.—THE COUNTESS OF CRAWFURD TO KING JAMES VI. FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

It will pleis 30ur hienes, the gryt confort quhilks wthers diftreffit fubicets haue fundin, hes now as on of thois embaldonit me to putt furth thois lynis of regraitts to 30ur hienes wew, complening of the vniust difdanis and vnkyndlie actionis of my houfband towards me, quha, fince the tym of my vnquhill fathers deceis, following his will and leud affectionis, hes now repudeatt me, without all feir of God, 30ur hienes and lauis; detenit me as ane captiue, in dander of my lyf, quhill at last is delyuerit be moyane of my freinds, and so now leuis without ayd of him, spoillid and defradit of both suid and rayments: in the quhilk reueltie he 3it contenuis, without 30ur maiestie prouyd remeid, the quhilk I in all humilitie beseiks 30ur hienes giue eir wnto in tym, that he in his vikitnes being restranit, may in end tend to my confort, quhairon I rest, taking my liue in all humilitie, praying to blis 30ur hienes with ane long lyf and ane prosperus regne,

Jour Hienes most humbill feruitrice now and euer at all pouer,

JAENE COUNTES OF CRAFURD.*

Edinburght, the xvii Februar 1610.

• According to Stewart's (Lord Ochiltree) MS. Genealogical Collections, this lady was "Jean Kerr, daughter to Mark Lord Newbattle, and sister to Robert Earl of Lothian, and widow of John Lord Boyd." Of this marriage, Lord Ochiltree states there was one daughter, although, in Wood's Edition of Douglas, vol. i. p. 380, it is said that the Earl died without issue. The Countess, continues his Lordship, "he divorced, and she married Mr Thomas Hamilton, son to the Lord Annandale[?] This Earl David died in the Castle of Edinburgh in prison, and was interred in the Abbey Church of Holyrood."—"He was confined for killing Walter Lindsay of Belgayes." Nisbet's Genealogical Collections, MS. Fac. Lib. page 51.

CL.—THE REVEREND JOHN HALL AND REVEREND PETER HEWAT TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

We, having tane notice by your majefties fecretary, of fome hard information given foorth against us, and com'd to your maiesties eares, as thought our fpeaches in pulpit had tended in any fort to the impugning of any of your maiefties lawfull directions, whilk courfe, as we have ever bene loath and unwilling to follow, fo, leaft we shuld ly under the burthing of this fo untrue an report, we ar bold to prefent to your highnes, by this our humble letter, the trueth of this fame, having at greater lenght imparted to my lord fecretarie all the circumstances of that mater. When fignification was given of your majefties will and pleafure, anent a new ceflation and time of vacancie in the winter fession, it was so mistaken univerfally, that the commoun fort thinking it to proclame to them libertie and lowfenes, to the whilk they ar fo prone, and the Papifts and enemies of Gods trueth taking heirof occasion of infolent speaches, as thought incouraged to looke for the returne of their former fuperflitious doing, we was forced in our fermons as to fett ourfelves against the vanitie of the people, and labour to tak from the enemies this mater of their joy: fo to cleir your maiefties honeft and godly intention, being certified by my Lord Chancellar directing to us the baillies of this toun to that effect, that there was none other thing meant be your highnes, but to give relaxation to the lords of your maiefties fession, at that season of the yeir; fo that in medling with this earand, we truft we have fo caried ourfelues with refpect to your maiesties honor, that we have ministrat no just occafion of offence. And gif the contrair shalbe alledged or qualified be any in quhatfomever particular speache, we dout not bot our answer shall render contentment: and we know that your maiestie has never bene in

use to condemne unheard. Whereas your maiestie hes likewise bene advertifed of fum unreverent and impertinent speaches used in publick prayer concerning your maieftie by certane of the brethren of this prefbyterie, we can affuir your maiestie that, to our knowledge and hearing, there is no fuch difordour, whereof, gif any shalbe found culpable, your maiestie may perfuade yourfelf he shall not escape convenient censure, as we willbe answerable to your hienes, under whose wings we enjoy this liberty. The proofe your maiestie hes had of our former proceiding, and knowledge your maieftie may tak of our haill cariage in our vocation by perfons indifferent, and fuch as dois not hate us and our ministery both, we doubt not will move your maiestie to foster none evill conceit of us, but, in all accufations fallbe caried, leave place to us to answer for ourselves. Thus, referring to my lord fecretary a moir fpeciall report, with whome we have bene plane in every thing, we humblie tak our leave, and commends your maiefties facred perfon and eftait to the bleffing and protection of the Almighty.

Your Maiesties loving and obedient subjects,

Edinburgh, 17 Februar 1610.

Jo. Hall. Mr P. Hewatt.

To the King his maift excellent Majestie.

CII.—WARRANT APPOINTING PETER ROLLOK OF PILTOUN ONE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LORDS OF SESSION.

May 16, 1610.

At Edinburgh, the fextene day of Maij, the yeir of God 1° vj^c and ten yeiris, in prefens of the lordis of counfale, compeirit perfonallie Mr Petir Rollok of Piltoun, and prefentit to the lordis this warrand directit from his maiestie to the chancellour, president and remanent

fenatouris of the College of Justice; off the quhilk the tenour followis. Richt truftie and weilbelouit coufing and counfalouris, we greit yow weill. Quhairas vfuallie in all tymes past fince the institutioun of the College of Juffice, the extraordinaris nevir exceidit the number of foure, quhill of lait yeiris, that vpoun ane speciale vrgent occasioun the syft was addit, and now, efter the death of Mark Erle of Lowthiane, guha was ane extraordinare boith by place and voit of the fprituale fyde, we haveing nominat the rycht reuerend father in God the Archbifchop of Glafgow for possession thairof, and heirwith haifing fent down ours warrand vnto yow for reducing thame to the number of four, and certifeing oure pleafour concerning the other thrie, we do now understand that by this ordour Mr Peter Rollok of Piltoun, ane of thame, guho of ane lang tyme had bene ane extraordinare, was now dispossest, and knowing him to haif bene ane evir bent to oure feruice, and vtherwayes fit and apt for administratioun of justice, and being by ane lettre from all of yow speciallie recommendit vnto ws, and by yow intrettie maid to ws on his behalff, we haifing bene evir vnwilling that an old fervant, aganes quhome no exceptioun of ony offence could be takin, fould in his eagit yeiris carie ony note of the lofe of oure fauour, as mycht both breid greif to himfelf and heaftin his gray hairis to the graif, and imprint in the opinioun of vtheris fum apprehenfioun of his difgrace: Thaife ar thairfoir to will and requyre yow to receave and admit him agane to be ane of your extraordinaris, to haif place and voit in lyk maner as ony of the vther four hes. And, howevir, vpoun the respectis foirfaidis we ar forcit to vrge the number of fyve extraordinaris to fit with yow, yit it is not oure mynd that this fall be ony preparative heirefter for the continowing of the lyk number. But oure plefour is, that yow, by ane speciale act and statute, to be re-

^{*} See Melros Papers, vol. i. pp. 76, 279. Peter Rollok, who originally was brought up to the profession of the law, and who passed advocate previous to the year 1575, subsequently directed his views towards the church, and succeeded James Paton, Bishop of Dunkeld, in December 1585. He was admitted, on the 19th May 1596, an extraordinary Lord of Session, on the resignation of the Earl of Montrose. Of this office he was afterwards deprived, but restored by this warrant from the King. He retained his seat for about ten years, when he resigned it, and was succeeded, 1st February 1620, by Lord Erskine.

cordit in your buikis, declair that this admissioun of ane fyft extraordinare is onlie hac vice tantum; and that fua fone as ony of thefe places fall vaik in ony fort, that than none fall be put in the roume of that voide place, and in no tyme thairefter the number to be encreafed: for doing quhairof thefe prefentis fall be vnto yow warrant: and in fo far as it is requyrit that enerie extraordinare be one of oure counfale, and the faid Mr Petir being none of that number, we haif, tharfor, out of our prerogative royall, difpenfit thairwith, inhabling him in all respectis to injoy his place, as gif he war ane of our counfale; and fo we bid yow fairweill. From our court of Quhythall, the fyft of Apryle 1610; as the faid lettre, fignet with his maiesteis hand and superscriptioun, proportis. Quhilk being confideret be the faidis lordis, they fand his maiefteis defyr thairin contenit verie reafonable, and according thairto hes admittit and reffauit the faid Mr Peter Rollok in ane of the extraordinare Lordis of Seffioun, and gevis and grantis to him all the privilegis, immuniteis, and digniteis, perteining to the faid extraordinare place, and quhilk hes bene bruikit be ony other extraordinare Lord of Seffioun at ony tyme of befoir: and the faid Mr Peter Rollok being perfonallie prefent, maid faith that he fould leillalie and trewlie exerce the faid office, and minister iustice thairin to all oure fouerane lordis liegis, and to observe the actis and flatutis of the fessioun, and thairvpoun askit instrumentis. Extractum de libro actorum per me dominum Georgium Hay de Nethirliff, militem, clericum rotulorum registri ac confilii fancti domini nostri regis, sub meis signo et subfcriptione manualibus,

Georgius Hay, Clericus Registri.

CHI.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI. June 18, [1610?]

PLEIS JOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Hauing euer, in all my greatest trubils, miferis, and adversitis past, fund zour facred maiestie my onlie gratious protecteur, faugard, and refuge, now I am forcit most humblie to regrait my present hard estait, sins nou, far aganis my expectatioun, all zour facred maieftis lettres uretin fauorablie for my delyuerans, I find thaeme thrawin to contrar effect, be the malice of that quha ondeferuidlie haitis me, and thair greter vre apperis that onie fpounk of zour facred maiesteis gratious fauour suld zit seime to remaine towards me: for I having, according to your facred maieftis directioun, in prefens of the Chancellor and the Erlle of Dumbar, and fum of the bifchops and ministrie, not onlie ratifit my subscriptioun of the heidis it plefit zour facred maieftie to direct unto me, bot alfweill in euerie point, particularlie in thair prefens, approuit the fame, 3it nothing uald fatiffie, except I uald boith fuer and communicat: fua nou, Sir, I haue my onlie refuge, fen reafon will not be hard be thaem, unto zour facred maieftis fauorable clemencie, quhilk I haue euer fund more touards me than ane thousand of my lyuis can repay. Pleis zour facred maiestie to call to memorie, that this zeir past, I was informit that my going to fermons wald gife your facred maieftie fatiffactioun, quhilk I obevit: Secondlie, the bifchop of Orkney prefentit unto me the oth of alledgens from 3our facred maieftie, quhilk I willinglie performit with all affection, as himfelf teftifiit thereftir. Jit this not fuffifing, I have at last, for your facred maiestis forther fatisfactioun, subscrivit the heids of religioun that it plefit zour facred maiestie to direct unto me. Giff all this cannot fuffis to procur me libertie to fum of my houfis, I knau not quhat reftis till me to do, bot onlie, as I haue euer done heirtofor, to fubmitt my felf in all humilitie to 50ur facred maieftis good plefour and will: and I will humblie befeik 3our facred maiestie to grant one of thir thre

petitiouns: Athaer libertie, as was condificended be 3our facred maieftis former lettre, to go till fume of my housis, or than that fauour as to remaine in my auin chargis befyd 3our facred maieftie, that I micht haue that contentment as to fe 3our facred maieftis persoun ainis in the half 3eir at left, quhar I fall conform my felf to 3our facred maieftis will and directioun, in all points. Gif non of thir fatissis, that it will pleis 3our facred maieftie to grant me licens, as the Erlle of Angus hes alredie gottin, to pas out of the contrey, and my wysf with me, uith securitie of our liuingis, quhar ue fall euer attend 3our facred maiestis fauorable recalling quhansoeuer it fall pleis 3our facred maiestie to think the tyme proper. Sua, in thir and in all uthir thingis, as it fall pleis 3our facred maiestie to inioine to me, euer offering my humble obediens, efter the kissing most humblie of 3our most facred maiestis hand, I uill rest

Zour most facred Maiestis humble subject and most affectionat feruiteur, to my lyuis end,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this xviij. of Junj [1610?]*

To the Kyngs most facred Maiestie.

[•] This letter has no date. Assuming the oath to be that taken on the 13th and 17th of November 1600, it may probably be assigned to the following year. The Marquis appears subsequently to have been less molested by the clergy, and latterly was sworn in a Privy Councillor. Balfour says, vol. ii. p. 64. "This 27 of February [1617] George Marquis of Huntley was admitted and sworne a privey counsellor, conforme to the order."

CIV.—WARRANT BY JAMES VI. IN FAVOUR OF THE EARL OF ANGUS.
[1610?]

Whereas the French Ambassadour, in the name of his maiestie the young king, and the quein his mother, hath made most earnest suite vnto vs on the behalfe of the Earle of Angus, to graunt vnto him fuch affurance of his eftate as the lawes of that our kingdome could affoorde: And feeing it was neuer our intention that hee flould be more hardly dealte withall then the Marquis of Huntley, or the Earle of Errole (whose obstinacy in their religioun is no lesse than his), and seeing that their liuings are putte to a pointe for their owne benefite, and his only of the thrie remayneth yet vufettled: We have thought good, by thefe prefentes, to require you not only to take like order with his estate as hath bein taken with those of the other two, and to cause a fignatour for that effect be fent vnto vs; but likeuife, if any difficulty do occurre which may any way hinder the fame, that you eyther by your felues take it away, or then adwertife vs, that wee may determine therein according as wee shall fee cause; and willing this to be done with all convenient expeditioun, we, &c.+

CV.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JULY 6, 1610.

The bearer heirof, Sufanna Declony, the wyife of Adrian Vanfon, fumtyme our painter, hath divers tymes importuned ws with

[·] Louis XIII.

[†] This and the following document are merely original drafts.

petitionis, defyring payment of debtes dew to hir faid late hufband, alfueill for wages as work done at our commandement: and becaus we ar willing to give hir all dew fatiffactioun (and yett are ignorant what foume and vpoun what ground fhee craveth), we haue by thefe prefentis thoght good to will and requyre you particularly to enquyre what is dew vnto her, and with all convenient expeditioun to certifie ws, vnder your hands, how muche we do justlie ow hir, to the intent that we, fo certified, may tak fuche farder course for her satisfactioun as salbe most agreable to reasone; and not doubting of your care heirin, we bid you sairweill. From our Court at Whitehall, the 6 of July 1610.

To the Counfell.

CVL-THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEISE ZOUR MOIST SACREID MAIESTEY,

I am forej fra my hart, that I am conftraynitt to fafche 30wr maiestey, now in my awild age, with my wnwordey partecularis heir aganis my awin, cumen of my loynis, 3ett, remembering ewer 30wr maiesteis moist gratiowse contenance to me, I haif tane the bawildness to presume the famen. It is trew that my eldest sonne,* being that thing erthely I moist respectit and confiditt into, and thought he fould haif bene my greatest helpe, to the weill of the rest of my scheeldering (by my expectatiowne and gud will), he mareitt him self, to my greitt grewe and his motheris, and to the losse and hurtt of my howse; and yet, mowitt be my frendis, and the cair I haid to the standing of my housse, I remittitt that owirsycht in him wpon hoipe in tymes to cumme he sould haif kythitt mair obedyence, bot all in waine. Bot now he rynis seike ane malytiowse cowrse aganis me, that he perallis my credeitt and honour in seike forme, that I am laythe to expresse the same be wrytt, leist I sould ower

^{*} William Lord Kilmaurs " married Katharine, daughter to Mark Ker, Lord Newbottle." Stewart's MS. Collections, Advocates' Library.

mosche fasche 30wr maiestie; and therfoir I haif desyritt 30ur maiesteis feeretar heir to delayte the haill sircumestancis betuix him and me att lenthe to 30wr maiestei, moist humblie crawing 30ur maiesteis gratiowse fawour and contenence to me now in my awild age, nocht to be crossitt with my awin bowellis, bot to haif commandyment of my awin, swa longe as I am to lewe in this pilgrymage, and that I may lewe behynd me the memorej of ane howsse to ferwe 30wr maiestej and 30wris. I can do no more, bott I fall ewer remane 30wr moist facreid maiesteis ewer to ferwe, to the last brethe, with als willing and trew ane hartt, as falbe in all 50wr maiesteis domynownis. And swa, humblie crawing 30wr maiesteis pardowne for this my ewill wrytt and safcheowsse lettir, humbill serwice rememberitt to 30wr moist facreid maiestej, I pray the Lord ewer to remane with 50wr maiestie, and to gif 30wr maiestie longe lyf and gud hailthe, with proseperowsse fukcesses.

Towris moift facreid Maiesteis moift humbill and obedyentt subiectt, ewer redie, in all humillitie, to ferwe,

GLENCAIRNE.

[No date.]

To his moift facreid Maieftie.

CVII.—THE EARLS OF DUNFERMLINE AND DUNBAR TO KING JAMES VI.

July 27, 1610.

Most Gratious and Sacred Souerane,

Vpoun aduertifment gevin to we that fome pirott fchippis had bene fene in the mouthe of this firth, and the fame fecundit by the

complaintis of a grite many of your maiesteis subiectis, bothe in the west coast and heir on the east, of the viquietnes and hasaird of passage by reafoun of the frequencie of Inglishe pirottis on the fea, and speciallie of one of Caithnes, who, in his passing home, wes robde of all that he had, and bothe by him and by the repoirt of otheris who had mett fome of those pirottis on the fea, being certifyed that thay wer gone towardis the Orknay Ylandis, we being moved and grevit with the complaint of your maiesteis poore people, and being loathe to impeshe your maiesteis ytheris weyghtie affairis with the aduertifment thairof, whill we had done fome thing thairin oure felffis, and wisheing that in a mater of this qualitye (admitting hardlie ony delay, wherin the omitting of the prefent occafion micht doe muche harme), your maiestie fould rather find ws cairfull of our dewytie then otherwayes remife or negligent, we did heirupoun prefentlie direct three of the best schippis at that tyme within the harbour of Leyth, weele mannit, and furnisht with all weirlyke prouisioun (your maiefteis awne fchip at that tyme not being arryved heir), and having gevin vnto thame expres directioun and charge to mak fearche and to follow quhidder foeuir thay could apprehend those pirottis; and our fchippis having mett with thame youn the coast of the mayne land of Orknay, thay having twa faillis, the one a fchip aboue 200, the other a choife pinnace of 100, efter a bloodie conflict, in whiche twa of oure men wer killed and findrie hurte, the pinnace being excellent in failleing, maid choife rather by flight to faife hirfelff then by ony langer flay to abyde the hafaird of taking; and albeit fcho wes followed for a fpace, yitt did icho ftill gavne ground, wherupoun hir perfute being left of, the other grite fchip in the meane quhyle being boordit, wes brought away by oure fchippis, and in hir wer takin to the nomber of threttie able men, befydis fome few prifonnaris whome thefe pirottis did keepe aboorde, who, after they had bene dewlie and feuerall tymes examined, at last all these threttie wer putt to thair tryall and found guiltye; of whiche nomber xxvij ar execute and putt to death, of whome there wer twa captaines, by name Captaine Perkynis and Captaine Randall. The other three ar reprvvit and continewit vntill fuche tyme as your maiesteis pleasour be knowne, in regairde that thair is hoip by thair farder examinatioun, to

learne oute fome thingis tuitcheing the eftate. We haif alreddy difcouerit fome mater of abuse, hoiping to finde more oute, wherby this grite inerefce of piracye hathe bene by fome, far aganis thair dewyteis to your maieflie, too muche fofterit and mantenit: bot of the particularis of the fame, as vnwilling to committ thame to wryte, your maiestie salbe certifved at lenth by your maiefteis fecretarye of this kingdome, who is thortlie to mak his repair thither. In the mean quhyle, the perfonis of those men whose lyves ar spaired, falbe faislie keept and maid furthecomeand ather for forder examinationn heir, or vpoun knowlege of your maiesteis pleasour salbe broght thither to be tryed. Ther wer also mony pregnant prefumptionis, that however these men now spairit wer deprehendit in the focietie of the reft, that the fame wes more by enforcement then by confent, whiche wes affirmed by the most parte of thame who wer executed. This company of pirottis did interteyne one whome thay did eall thair perfoun, for faying of prayeris to thame twyfe a day, who, belyke ather wearyed of his cure, or fearing the enfewing distructioun of his flocke, had foirfaken thame in Orknay, and prinelie convoying him felff over land, wes at lenth described and deprehendit in the burgh of Dundee, and being broght hither, did fo cleirlie confes and gif evidence aganis the reft, and, being confronted, broght mony of thame to confeffloun. Thair being heirwith fome likliehoode that his flay with thame had bene by conftraint, we haif heirupoun, in lyke foirt, continewit him frome being putt to tryale, vntill your maiesteis pleasour be knowne. We do vndirftand, by aduertifment from Orknay, that thair be fome fyve or fax pirottis mo deprehendit, bot quhidder thay be of this company or not, it is vucertane. Alwayes we do expect thame by the first occasioun of ony fchipping that dothe come frome thenfe; and fince none of ws ar ignorant that by reafoun of aduertifmentis not onlie frome all the cornaris of your maiesteis owne dominionis, bot alfua frome foreyne pairtis, your maiestie hes nevir almost ony intermissionn or respitt (your maiestie, by Godis prouidence, and to your subject is vnspeakable happynes, being that grite occeane vnto whiche all revaris and brookis do rinne), as in dewytie we could not omitt to acquent your maiestie heirwith, fo the feir of troubling your maiestie with too long a lettre, hathe

moved ws to refer the particular relation of all the incidentis in this bufynes to a more proper occasion. And concerning all suche other directionis as it pleased your maiestie, ather by commission fent be the Lord Burley, or by lettre writtin vnto ony of ws concerning the Marques Huntley, the Erll of Errole, or ony other mater worthie of the aduertising, your maiestie salbe certifyed of all these oure proceedings by the secretarie at his repair to your maiestie. And so, praying God to blisse your maiestie with a lang, happy, and prosperous reignn, we rest for ever

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient subiectis and feruitouris,

DUNFERMELINE.
DOUMBAR.*

Edinburgh, 27 July 1610.

To the King his most facred and excellent Maiestie.

CVIII .- SIR ROBERT MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS JOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Accept, in guid pairt, the willing affectioun of one of the eldeft, althocht not the most abill, of 3our maiesteis servandis and creatouris,

• Lord Dunbar died a few months afterwards, and was succeeded in the management of the Scots business by John Murray, subsequently Viscount Annand and Earl of Annandale. The Earl's death is thus noticed by Calderwood:—" In the moneth of January (1611), the Earle of Dunbar departed this life at court, not without suspicione of poisone, because my Lord of Kinlosse, Lord of the Rolls, a Scotishman, placed in that office be the King at his goeing to England, had died a little before. Howsoever it was, the Earle was by death pulled down from the height of

quho for acquytin of the truft it hes ever pleafit zour majeftie to repois in me, I can nocht be filent at this tyme to congratulat to 50ur maiestie that poynt of zonr maiesteis felicitie, quhairwith God hes blissit zow in the quyet, happie, and weill gouerned effait of this zour maiesteis natiwe and ancient kyngdome. The caussis quhaiross, nixt 3our maiesteis most rair and princelie wosdome in directing so wyselie euerie thing tending to the wniuerfall weill of ws all, I can not in my fimpill judgment bot afcrywe the fame to the fidelitie and cair of 30ur maiesteis principall officiaris and fervandis, in quhome fo vorthely 3e haif fatlit the burdeine of the affairis. For as to the Erle of Dumbar, ouhois fidelitie and cair to the guid fortoun in the fucces of thingis committit to him I knaw not quhilk to commend most, all that is in him being 30ur maiesteis awin: his behauiour dois fo raweis all men, that his actionnes ar interpreit to be zour inspirationnes, and the circumstancis of thame flowing from the fame fontane: in my tyme, quhilk hes not beine fehort in this flait. I haif not feine the lyke. The Chancellar, quhois vpbringing and painfull trauell hes maid him ane gret flaitis man, being lykwayis directit by 30ur maiesteis commandement, hes applyit his knawledge and lerning to fo proffitable endis, to the honour, aduancement, and guyetnes of this eftait, hes, nixt zour maiesteis awin pairt, the prais of the bliffit and happie conditioun quhairin the cuntrye ftandis, quhilk, by 3our maiefteis absence, was thocht to haif beine hard to pacifie. And, seing it fallis out fo happely in zour maiefteis gret wordome, that thay ar boith prefent with zour maiestie, and willing to restaiff frome zour awin mouth the guid acceptatioun of thair fervice, quhilk is the gretest honour and contentment they can haiff, and maift willing to obey 5our maiefteis directionnes in all tyme cuming, I haiff takin the bauldnes, maift humlie, to intrett

his honour, even when he was about to solemnize magnificently his daughter's mariage with the Lord Waldane: he purposed to celebrat St George's Day following at Berwick, where he had almost finished a sumptions and glorious palace. But the curse was executed upon him that was pronounced upon the building of Jericho; he was too busie, and left nothing undone to overthrow the discipline of our church, and speciallie at the Assemblie holden the last summer at Glasgow; but none of his posteritie enjoyeth a foot broad of land this day of his conqueist in Scotland. He ended his days in Whitehall, upon Wednesday, the penult of January." Calderwood MS. vol. xiv. p. 465. Advocates' Library.

sour maieftie, that feing thair guid concurrence in accomplifing 5our royall vill, hes bred 5our maieftie the honour of this our happines and confort to all 3our fubicctis; that 3our maieftie, according to 3our accuftummed clemencie, will tak that notice of thair labouris that may incurage thame to continow, and to knyt thame togidder in thair affectioun to 5our maiefteis feruice, and to the weill of our natiwe cuntray, as fo monie guid courfis bye 5our maiefteis princely derectioun fo happelye and wyflie folloued furthe to the guid lyking of all men, quhilk being effectuallie done, 5our maieftie may be richt affured that all thingis in thir pairtis will fucceid to 5our maiefteis contentment. For my felf, fo far as my age and abilitie may ferve, all falbe fpent in 5our maiefteis feruice; and quhair I find any thing amifs, I fall euer mak 5our maieftie foirfeine; not doutting bot as 5our maieftie hes euer accepted moir gratiouflye of my waik endeuoirs nor they war worthie, fo 5our maieftie will tak this my prefumptioun in guid pairt.

Humblie taking my leif, kyffing zour maiefteis hand, I praye God grant zour maieftie ane happie and profperous reing, in quhois gratious protectioum I commit zour maieftie.*

Jour Maiesteis maist humble and obedient subject and feruitour,

ROBERT MELIULL.

To the Kingis facred Maiestie.

• This letter is undated; but as Lord Dunbar is represented in life, and as he died in January 1611, it must have been written anterior to that period. Sir Robert Melville was frequently ambassador to England. In January 1587, he was sent to remonstrate against the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. He was constituted, on 11th June 1594, an extraordinary Lord of Session, by the title of Murdocairnie, which office he resigned in favour of his son Robert in 1601. Upon the 30th April 1616 he was created a peer by the title of Lord Melville of Monymail, by patent to him and the heirs-male of his body, whom failing, to the heirs-male of his elder brother John. His Lordship died in 1621, having attained the age of 94. He was the immediate elder brother of Sir James Melville of Halhill, author of those valuable Memoirs, of which the first complete edition was some years since printed by the Bannatyne Club.

CIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI. $M_{\rm AX}$ 3, 1611.

Most Gratious and Sacred Souerane,

According to your maiefteis directioun, fend vnto ws, for trying of the difpolitioun and formar maner of leving of James Johnneftoun, prifonair in the tolbuithe of Edinburgh, who wes condemned to lofe his hand for fehoiting of piftollettis, we haif tane als exact ane tryall and examinatioun in that mater as poffibillie we could, and (faulfling that particulair of piftollettis) we do find no thing in his bipaft behaviour and carriage, whilk may onywayes bring him within the compas or centure of law, he being acquate and clengeit of all vtheris crymis at that tyme when he was pannellit befoir the Erll of Dunbar, and fen his committing to the tolbuithe we haif not hard fo mutche as one complaynte aganis him, bot very grite folificatioun maid for his libertie and releif. And fo, remitting him to your maiefteis gratious and princelie confideratioun, and praying God to bliffe your maieftie with all happines and contentment, we reft for ever

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedyent fubicctis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLS. Jo. PRESTOUN. SIR J. ARNOTE. PERTH.
CLERICUS REGISTRI.

Edinburgh, the thrid of May 1611.

To the King his most facred and excellent Maiestie.

CX.—THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES VI. $$\rm M_{AY}$ 4, 1611.

SACRED SOUERANE,

May it pleafe your most excellent majestie. The most reuerend father in God, your majefties most trustie counsellour the Archbishop of Sanctandroufs, our werie prudent chanceller, hauing informit vs, the Rector, Deanes of Faculties, and remanent Maisteris of your majesties Vniuerfitie of Sanctandrous, hou cairful your maieftie is of the florishing eftait thairof, particularlie of the dedicationne of ane commoune Bibliotheque thairto, quhairby learning (throche bypaft penurie of buikis fumquhat decaying) may be, to the benefit of the kirk and commoune-veil, refufcitat, and vee vithin this your majefties Vniuerfitie, moir inhablit to your majefties feruice, ve can nocht vithout the blot of detestable ingratitude and inexcuifable videutifulnes to your majeftie, as our most gratious and beneficent prince, bot vithe all humilitie of mynd and bodie, most hartlie thanke your majestie thairfoir; and, vith the lyk humilitie in houp to be hard, most earnistlie intreat your majestie to perfytly prosecute that particulare purpoife of liberalitie touardis vs; and, generallie, according to the laudable dispositioune of your majesties royal progenitoris of blissed memorie, to continoue to the immortalitee of your majefties name, in aduancing be moiens and priuæledges this your majefties principal and moft renonmed Vniverfitee vithin this realme. Thus, vithe permiffioune, prefuming to affure your majeftie of our most deutiful affection to your majefties feruice and furtherance thairof, ather in kirk or commoune-veil, according to our pouer and vocatioune, vee, frome the bottome of our hartis, vniformlie recommend your majesties royal persoune and estait to the Almichtie God, quho may blefs your majeftie in this lyf vith a long



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Subject is

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Marster Thome silenns Lector.

Marster Thome silenns Lector.

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Mr. Jone Jongton, Marster June Shang.

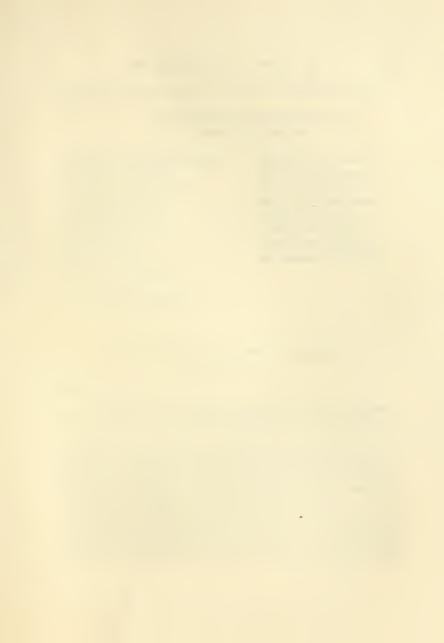
Mr. Jarile Malvill

Mr. W. Marstoroeve

Marster Janes Thele,

Mr. Ja: Long & Marster Dans Gerin

Marster Washia Lambre M. Bendrie Dans Gerin





and profperous raigne; and vith ane eternal and glorious in the lyf to cum.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient feruitoris and subjectis,

Maister JHONE WEMIS, Rector.

Mr JAMES MARTINE.

Mr Dauid Monypennie.

Mr Robert Wilkie.

Mr JHONE JONSTON.

Mr Patrik Malvill.

PETER BRUCE.

Mr JA. WEMYSE.

Mr George Martine.

Sanctandrous, 4 Maij 1611.

Maister Jhone Strang. Mr Wm. Macdowell. Mr Alex^a. Henderson. Maister William Lambie. Mr Robert Hovye. Maister James Blair. Maister James Schevez.

Mr Hendrie Danskein.

CXI.—KING JAMES VI. TO SIR ARTHUR CHICHESTER. SEPTEMBER 14, 1611.

JAMES R.

Right truftie and welbeloued, wee greete yow well. The Lord Ochiltree,† a noble man of Scotland, of good defert toward vs, being an

• Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland, who obtained considerable grants of land in the province of Ulster, and was created a peer of Ireland by the title of Lord Chichester of Belfast, 23d February 1612. He died without lawful issue, at London, 19th February 1624, when his estates, almost entirely derived from the old Irish families, passed to his brother, Sir Edward Chichester, who was created Viscount Chichester, 1st April 1625. From him the present Marquis of Donegal is lineally descended. The old barony of Chichester is extinct.

† Andrew, third Baron of Ochiltree. From a letter without date, addressed by him to James, he appears to have been involved in pecuniary difficulties in consequence of his employment in the Isles under his Majesty's order. He supplicates the King to order the council to audit and pass his accounts, so that he might be enabled to settle with his creditors. In conclusion, he entreats "your highnes for eschewing the present wraik and rwyne of my old house, who hath bene so long

202

vndertaker of a portion of the efcheated landes in Vlfter, and now going thether to fetle himfelfe and his company on the landes of Montioy, for the eftimatioun we mak of him, wee haue thought fitte to accompany him with our lettres, whereby to let yow know that whatfoeuer fauour yow shall do him, in furtherance of his well fetling in that place which he hath vndertaken, wee shall take in kinde parte, as bestowed on a nobleman vnto whome wee wish all goode fuccesse. Giuen at our mannour of Hauering, the xiiijth of September, in the eight yeare of our reigne of Greate Britayne, Fraunce, and Irland, and of Scotland the xlvth.

To our right truftie and welbeloued Sir Arthur Chichefter, Knight, our Deputy of our kingdome of Irland.

CXH .- THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VI.

To his Sacred Maiestie,

The humbill Petitioune of the Commissioneris for the Burrowghes of 50wr Maiesties Kingdome of Scotland, in the behalf of the faid Burrowghes,

Maist humblie befeeching 30wr facred maieftie as the onlie fontane, vnder God, of justice, and nixt wnto him, the velfpring of our happines,

loyall subjects and true servands," to order a payment to account. It is probable, as the King's Exchequer was not usually overflowing with cash, that Lord Ochiltree got the Irish grants in payment of his claim. He was created an Irish peer by the title of Lord Steuart, Baron of Castlesteuart, in the county of Tyrone, 7th November 1619. He died in 1632. His descendant and heir-male, Andrew Thomas Steuart, the sixth Baron, was created, 20th December 1793, Viscount, and 29th December 1800, Earl of Castlesteuart. Andrew Lord Ochiltree is said to have resigned his Scotish honours in 1615, which were then conferred on Sir James Stewart of Killeith, in whose family the Barony became extinct. The Earl of Castlesteuart claimed, however, the Scotish Barony; but the House of Peers, 16th April 1793, decided that his vote, given as Lord Ochiltree, at the election of Scots peers, was a bad one.

feing we haif had acceffe vnto 50wr facred prefence, that it weld pleis 30wr maiestie, off 30wr accustomid fauour and clemensie, to pardoune and forgiff owir owirfichtt (and many mo zowr maiefties faithfull and loyall fubicetis, guho ar wnder the fame fenfour with ws) in taking abuiff ten for the hundreith, contrar to zowr maiefties act: the occatioune guhairof was, that the fame tuik newer plaice by executioune, it being now paft fourteine or fyfteine zeiris fence the inacting of the fame, fwa, that all perfounis of quhatfumewer rank, eftait, or conditioune thay be of, hes takin tuelf for the hundreith, quhilk was authorifed be decreitis of the Lordis of Seffioune, allowitt be the Loirdis of zowr maiefties Exchaker to the thefawrer, controller, and wtheris: quhilkis warrandis our owirficht heth imbaldnit ws of the mener fort (ignorant of the lawis and mening thairof), to commit the lyk by imitatioune, and not of contempt: alfo, the necessitie and skairsnes of mony,* owir countrie not yeilding the lyk ftoir as wtheris, and the necessitie of the adois of the countrie amangis owirfelwis and elifquhair, maid the fame moir tollerabill, fuppofing tollerance to be law. And feing this is the first fute of 30wr maiestieis burrowis fence the vnfpicabill lois of 30wr maiefteis happie prefence and aboid amangis ws, quhairby we haif loift all ftrenth and vigour, and ar becum as deid and rotin flokis, 30wr maiesteis presence being the fontane thatt did watter and refreche ws, we humblie befeik zowr maiestie to pardoune owir bygaine ignorance and owirfichtt anentt tuelf of the hundreth. and to none wtheris, promiffing all lawfull obedience in tymis cuming.

Nixt, that it wold pleis 30wr maiestie to dischairge the exacting or heichting of the customes of hering, cloth, hydis, skinis, and such wther stapill waris of that kingdome, being the onlie waris quhich bringeth home gould, filwer, wyne, saltt, irne, and such wther necessaris, by importing quhairof, 50wr maiesteis customes ar inlairgid.

Thridlie, that it wald pleis 50wr facreitt maiestie the exacting of cuf-

Some interesting notices relative to the scarcity of coin in Scotland will be found in the Melros Papers.

tomes for transporting of gudis in tyme bygaine, frome Ingland to Scottland.

Last, that it wold pleis 50wr maiestie to dischairge the exacting of bulyen for ony tred wfed within 50wr heichnes dominiounis, seing that 50wr maiesteis awin coyne can not be conwerted into bulyon; and as we ewer heirtofoir hes beine moist willing and redy to facrisice owr lywis, and quhatsumewer we had befydis for 50ur maiesteis honour and saftie, so fall we ewer continow, with our moist dewot and hertlie prayeris to God, for 50wr maiesteis prosperus and hapie regne.

CXIII.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY. MAY 16, 1612. ? / りかい

RICHT HONORABILL,

I trust your honour hes restaued my letter, whairin I did answer your last that cam to me in the ende of Marche, and schew yow your bissines could not be enditt with Mr Rot. Hendersone, till Mr Thomas Hope' his returne to the toun, who was then gone to Londwait. Yow salbe sure in grace of God, att his returne, thatt bissines salbe done as Mr Thomas sall direct, as Mr Robert is most willing, whom the sicht of your last letter which I schew him, and expectes yow will tak say euir with Mathow Wilsone being thair now with yow, that he sall quitt his possession of your myll and maynes, which is most sitting yow sould do, Sir (savand your awin pleasour and better judgment), for since he herd yow wer to bestow itt wpon Mr Robert, he hes vttered a fort of contrie clayme to itt, and grudged with Mr Robert for taking his kyndlie rowme, and soe far as I can learne, howsoewer yow may, Sir, mak vse of him in wther services, he is nott a sitt man thair to menage your rent, for he hes

[·] Afterwards Sir Thomas Hope, Lord Advocate.

principall entries in thacs landes, be clayme of his kyndlie poffeffioun,* as thaes peopill do esteam itt, and most credite with the rest of thatt fort, thatt he doeth no wther, bott be all menis stryue to keip thaes landes att the meinest rate he can, thouht he do itt cunninglie and covertlie. Befyd, I have learned that he fuffers thair of his nychtbouris to increache in the possession of fome off your rownes, who seik to keip thame be wther titillis then of your landes, and be tyme will bruik thame fo; as, namelie, Rammerskaillis thrie darkis of meidow, and John Maxwell in Lochmaben, ane close of land. Itt may be thair be wtheris, I have nott lerned, for I am a mere stranger thair, and that thir be bott mein thinges. Do, Sir, as yow pleafe. I thocht it my dewtie fo foone as I learned this muche, not to conceill itt. Yow may lykwayes, Sir, try how the fyscheing of your loche is vfed; and when Robert Philip and Mathow is both thair with yow, yow may try, Sir, gif yow can fynd outt of thame, examining ather of thame apairt from the wther, who wer the infligatouris of thacs tenentis of youris, to prefent to his maiestie a complaynt of yow, and giff Mathow wes accefforie to itt.

The commissioners of the Middle Schyres ar verie cairfull in discharge of thair commission, hath apprehenditt a gritt many kept prisoners to this ensewing court, that doeth muche good for the quyetnes of the contrie, which in all liklihood er now, gif this course had nott prevented, bein in verie greatt disorder. Yow haue done, Sir, verie honorablie in joyning your felff in this commission; and itt is grittumlie to your honour, and furtherance of your bissions in this contrie, this course in repressing of insolenceis and villaneis thus proceids. Thair is one thing enlaiking, muche hindersome to this fervice, that thair is no jayll in Annandaill. It is a worthie and memorabill work for yow, Sir, to bethink yourselff of the meines to help itt, and whairin nott the leist help of the quyetnes of this

[•] Wilson seems to have been one of the kindly rentallers of the four towns of Lochmaben, who were said to have come in place of some favoured servants of Robert the Bruce, who had obtained their small possessions by a species of tenure unknown in any other case of heritage in Scotland, and whose representatives could not be removed by the Overlord, although possessing without charter or seisin. See Case of Kindly Tenants of Lochmaben v. Viscount of Stormont, Nov. 24, 1726. Morison, p. 15, 195.

contrie confiftes. Captane Jhonftoun and a number of his fervandes, for a flauchter of the Laird of Wamfrayes brother, ar escaiped, and for wther cawfes ar cited to this court, and itt is thocht falbe fugitive. The captane hes putt Drumlangrig in truft of his eftate, who hes taken the gift of his escheitt and lyfrent. Heir itt is thocht the captaine is att court. Giff he can mak meins for him himfelff, I doutt nott, Sir, vow will be his freind; bot gif things go werfe with him, a pairt of his eftate he haldis of yow, whairoff yow may confidder whatt is fitting to be done. He embarked himfelff in the purchase of the fortie pund land of Corheid, quhairon the toun of Moffeitt flandis, which is one of the prettie thinges in this contrie. Gif the occasioun prefent that ather, Sir, yow may doo him good as his friend, or that none of his freindis can do him good, yow may accordinglie confidder. Thair is warning vfed in your name aganes the landes of Longboddom this yeir, which many conjecture this long tyme, hes holden of the Starr of Babylon; and fo yow will do weill, Sir, to defyr your agent to prevent gif thei feik any new richt. Thus, entreiting your honouris pardon of this my boldnes, I commend yow and all your effairis to the bleffing of God, and fall remane

Your Honouris most affectionatlie devoted in all fervice,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffet, Maij 16, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray of Lochmaben, one of his Maiesties Bedchamber, these.

CXIV.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY.

May 28, 1612.

RICHT HONORABILL,

I truft, Sir, yow have reffaued a letter whairin I writt to yow concerning Captane Jhonftoun. He is now fugitive from this court

holden at Dumfreiß, for thift, and a man of his hanged as accefforie to thatt thift whairfor he wes to be endyted. Whatt falbe the event, Sir, yow may better judge then I: Itt feames thair is no way for him bott be his maiesties favour. In the meintyme, his freindis feir his estate fall in the kinges hand; being a landed gentilman and fugitive for thist, falles vnder the compas of treason. A pairt of itt holdes of your selfs; most pairt of the Laird of Drumlangrig, as being of the landes of Torthorrell. This mekill, I thocht itt my dewtie to advertise yow of, Sir: Yow can better dispose then I can advyse. One thing he had, a entres in the landis of Corheid and Mosseitt, whilk gif yow had, itt wer easie to purchase the full titill thairoff. Bot craveing pardoun of this my presumptioun, I commend yow to the directioun and blessing of the hiest and onlie wise, and fall evir remane

Your Honouris humble ferviteur, most affectionatlie devoted,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffett, May 28, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray of Lochmaben, one of his Maiesties Bedchamber, these.

CXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF CANONGATE TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1612.

PLEIS JOUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Thair being nane of 3our fubicctis of this kingdome quho be not grevit with the want of 3our gratious prefence, 3et non haif fuch caus,

or ar moir fenfibill of the lois, then 50ur pure and ever dewtyfullie devotit brugh of Cannogate, quho do now fynd a cauld nipping wynter for the fweit feaffonable fomer they inioyit in zour maiefties flay heir, and zit hald thame felffis happie heirin with the rest of 5our subjectis, that thai injoy the benefite of zour maiefties most just, royall, and bliffit gouernament, fully perfeading thame felfis, now quhen the fardest limeittis and bordouris of zour impyre (ones thocht almost impossible) ar brocht to that fredome frome thraldome as thair resteth no farder feir of oppresfioun, that your maiefties faid burgh and inhabitantis thairof fall not want fum refresching frome that same welspring of grace, in being protectit frome the wrang and iniurie intentit under cullour of perfute by law, 3it more vniuft then guhat is done vtherwayis in a moir oppin fchaw of violence. And, thairfoir, we haif bene bauld heirby to mak humble treatty to zour maieftie for paffing and expeiding this article of parliament in our favouris, be ane fo iust and resionable, as we skairslie do beleif that any falbe opposed to the expeiding thairof; and that your maiestie wald thairwith recomend by fpeciall lettre the fame to the effates, for a teftimonie of 30ur maiefties continewing favour to the inhabitantis of this pure burgh of the Cannogait, quho wer alwayis reddy and wald think thame felffis still happie to be imployit in the fervice of zour maiestie, zour court and trayne. And fo, wiffing frome God the happie continewance of zour maiesties gratious regnne over ws, we humblie tak our levis, resting

Jour Maiesties most humble and obedient and devotit subjects,

Mr Johne Hart, Bailze. Mr W. Wilkie, Bailze.

At 30ur Maiesties Burgh of the Cannogait, the xxvj. day of September 1612.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

CXVI.—SIR DUNCAN CAMPBELL TO KING JAMES VI. FEBRUARY 2, 1613.

PLEIS JOUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Zour heighnes lettres, writtin in fauoris of Robert Abbroche McGregour,* now calling himfelf Ramfay, I have reffaveit, quhairby I am willit to repoffesse him in quhatfoeuer landis he haith rycht wnto, without truble or plea in law. It is of treuthe that he did poffefs certane landis belonging to me without ony rycht or titill at all, yea, fo far againis my confent, that with remembrance of my verie grit loiflis, I fall repent I had fuche tennent; and quhen he, as one of the cheif speceall ringleadaris of his viperous clan, did nocht content thamefelfis to wrong me by the moift barbarous oppressing of my tennentis, but had also ovirrwne ane grit pairt of thre or foure shirefdomeis, than the generale greif of fa mony dewtefull fubicctis maid the exterminioun of this damnable raice of people to be reffolueit wpone, as moift expedient and necessary for zour maiesteis peace and obedience, and the suretye of zour heighnes dewtefull fubicctis duelling in thais pairtis; whiche work, fince it tuik begining, haithe bene euer chairgable to zour maiestie, panefull to the cuntrie, and with my particular very grit hurt and fkayth, haueing had, befydes, many former loifes within les nor thais xviii monethis, twa hundrethe merk land waiftit and spoiled be that clan, conducted by this fam man now recommendit; my tennentis, thair wyfis and young childrene wnmercefullie mwrthoured, and fick of thame as efchaipit the fworde, in regaird thair houffis wer all brunt, being left in the oppin air, boithe the aigit and zounger fort wer killit with colde. It may perhapis by fum be fupponit that this feruice is at fum gud poynt; bot quhen all, boithe noble men, barrounis, and gentilmen, who haith moift interefs in this work, wer conveyned, than it wes amang thame refolved, and by thame to your maiefteis counfall proponed, and thair also allowit of, that without transplantatioun of this clan, no quyetnes to thais boundis culd

be expected; fo as this manis repossession to any landis, whiche by strong hand he held formerlie without any richt at all, implyis a derect ranversing of quhateueir was intendit for the gude of that feruice, the particular harme and inconvenience quhairof being wnfelt, no dout, to thais who hes bene so eirnest solicitouris in the behalf of this man, so ar thay als far mistakin in thair wndertaking for his gud behaviour in tyme cuming, in regaird thair is no dout at all, bot quhen he sindis himself of new strenthned with a fresche grouth of this wnhappie weid (quhairof thair be of male kynd sum xyjxx of new aryseing), lyke aneuche he will put who promissis in his behalf to ane personall actioun for thair releif.

And becaus hard experience haithe maid me more fensible nor wtheris, and my dewtie to 50ur maiestie doithe ensorce me to conceale no thing of my knawledge heirin, I have thairsoir presumed to acquent 50ur heighnes withe the treuthe; assuring 50ur maiestie one my credit, that giff the ringleadaris of this clan sall have the libertie to dwell and reside in thair former possession, this wndercotting woude sall be found heirester moire incurable. Alwayse, for my awin pairt, haveing lyse and whoile estait euir reddie at 50ur maiesteis disposseing, I moist humblie tak my leif, praying God Almychtie to continew long 50ur heighnes happie and prosperous reigne, and restis

Jour Maiesteis moist humble and obedient feruitoure,

Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhay.*

Edenbruche, the 2 of Februari 1613.

To the King his moift excellent Maiestie.

• Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy was in great favour with King James VI. He assisted at the coronation of Queen Anne, 18th May 1590, when he was knighted. In 1617, he had the office of heritable Keeper of the Forest of Mamlorn conferred on him, and obtained from King Charles I. the Sheriffship of Perthshire for life. He was created a baronet by patent bearing date 30th May 1625, and dying in June 1631, was buried at Finlarig. He is the direct ancestor of the present Marquis of Breadalbane.

CXVII.—JACOBUS VI. CIVITATI GEDANENSI. [1613 ?]

Jacobus, Dei gratia Britanniarum, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defenfor, &c. magnificis, generofis, et spectabilibus Dominis Præconfulibus, Confulibus, totique amplissimo regiæ ciuitatis Gedanensis Senatui, amicis nostris dilectis, falutem et beneuolentiam nostram regiam, &c. Magnifici, generofi, et spectabiles viri, amici nostri dilecti, literas uestras, amicitiæ et amoris erga nos fubditosque nostros plenas, jam pridem nobis reddidit famulus noster Patricius Gordonius, qui etiam ore tenus fingularem amplitudinum vestrarum in regii nominis nostri fama et dignitate, aduerfus iniquissimas malitioforum quorundam obtrectatorum dispersas per famofos libellos calumnias, afferenda, curam et diligentiam abunde expofuit. Quæ omnia vt prudentiæ et judicio vestro tribuenda agnoscimus, ita a nobis maximas et habendas et referendas gratias jure optimo cenfemus, nullafque gratificandi rationes, commoda oblata occafione, negligemus. Quod ad focietatem Anglorum mercatorum alicubi in Boruffia stabiliendam attinet, etsi ferenissimi Poloniæ Regis vestramque voluntatem perspeximus, et in eadem acquiescere lubenter cuperemus, tamen ne vicinis vrbibus, aut fubditis etiam nostris, vllam justæ offensionis causam præbere videremur, præfidi focietatis illius, eiufque affefforibus iniunximus, vt (fi vobis id gratum fuerit), fex homines idoneos mandatorio noftro adiungant, quibus negotii illius curam cum plena tranfigendi poteftate committendam duximus; vt exploratis conditionibus a vobis vicinifque ciuitatibus proponendis, commodis et fecuritati fuæ confulant. Tranfactionis articulos nobis confirmandos referuari volumus: cætera quæ ad tractatus initium, progressum, euentum, et ad ciuium vestrorum subditorumque nostrorum commodum pertinent, vestræ prudentiæ et promisso relinguimus.

CXVIII.—JACOBUS VI. JOHANNI SPEMANNO. [1613?]

Magnifice et generofe Spemanne, fincerum gentis tuæ, totiufque ampliffimi fenatus regiæ civitatis Gedaneufis erga nos fubditofque noftros amorem fapius perfpeximus; nofque ad eundem omni benevolentia regia compenfandum merito obligatos effe lubenter agnofcimus. Inprimis vero gentis tuæ virtutes egregiæ nos tibi maxime devinxerunt, effeceruntque ut negotium non valde difficile prudentiæ tuæ feorfum commendaremus. Famofus libellus, ad ignominiam totius gentis Scoticæ, in Pruffia ante annos aliquot divulgatus, veftro et ampliffimorum collegarum veftrorum juffu et auctoritate in urbe veftra prohibitus et fuppreffus eft, quod nos maximum benevolentiæ et prudentiæ argumentum, nec oblivioni tradendum exiftimavimus. Ejufdem libelli auctorem Johanem Starcovium* mandarius nofter Patricius Gordonius ad extremum fupplicium, juxta provinciæ illius [leges], eft perfecutus. Cumque actio illa magnis fumptibus con-

[.] The execution of Stircovius, which, in these days, would very properly be deemed as an act of atrocious barbarity, was regarded in a very different light two centuries since, when it was considered as a most proper and necessary proceeding. This unfortunate Pole had, it seems, paid a visit to Scotland, but was not received with that hospitality and kindness for which, in more modern times, that kingdom was so justly celebrated. His strange dress excited astonishment, and his odd dialect ridicule. He was jeered, hooted, and actually laughed out of the country. Home he returned, and the first thing he did was to pen the "famosus libellus," which excited the ire of the sapient James, who lost no time in bringing to condign punishment the unfortunate scribbler. By the instrumentality of Patrick Gordon, the anthor of the "Bruce," Stircovius was apprehended, tried, convicted, sentenced, and beheaded. All this could not be done without money, and of necessity a considerable sum was expended; his Majesty, although desirous of vindicating the dignity of the Scotish nation, was not inclined to do so at his own expense, and he modestly proposed to make the Scotish boroughs the sufferers. To this proposition, however, the various magistrates were not disposed to listen:-so the King took proceedings against his refractory subjects before the Lords of the Secret Council. To his great vexation, the proposed Judges held they had no jurisdiction, and refused to proceed. The King was thus obliged to have recomrse to some other expedient, and accordingly he appears to have written to the magistrates of Dantzig the letter now first printed, by which he proposes to tax all his subjects resident there. The decreet of absolvitor in favour of the boroughs was printed from the original among the papers of the city of Edinburgh in a private publication, entitled Nugæ Scoticæ.

feiterit, et adhuc non exigua fumma urbis vestræ incolis persolvenda restet, consuetissimum nobis visum est, ut subditi nostri, tam in urbe vestra degentes quam e Polonia et Prussia eo advenientes, qui cum vicinis paria onera in negotio illo Starcoviano non sustinuerunt, illis pro ratione census adæquentur, donec tota summa residua plene persolvatur, et Davidi Graio pro maximis laboribus in negotio illo conficiendo exantlatis ex equo et bono fatissiat. Quapropter ut gentis tuæ jussiu et consilio homines idonei elegantur, qui hujus rei curam habeant, pecuniam a volentibus colligant, a nolentibus, vestra auctoritate freti, exigant, rationemque diligentiæ et sidelitatis reddant, vehementer rogamus. Factura gens tua rem nobis gratissimam, et, uti opportunitas osserat, regio savore nostro dignam.

Magnifico et generofo Domino Johanni Spemanno, ampliffimo regiæ civitatis Gedanenfi Præconfuli, equiti aurato, fideliter nobis dilecto.

CX1X.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO KING JAMES VI. JULY 4, [1613?]

Moste Gratious and Dreade Soverayne,

According to directioun, immediatly vpoun my arryvall heir, I delynered to the tuo Archbishoppis, being together, the draught of the Confessioun of Faithe, whereanent they are to wryite, and send up there owne opinionis. For my owne pairte, I do skairse think that it can be ather addit to, or altered to the bettir, haveing alreddy abidden such a tuichestone; bot leiving the divines to there owne functioun, I wes the more vnhable to yeild thame satisfactioun in there doubtes, when the same wer referved wp from me. Anent the keiping of the parliament, I haif acquaynted the archbishoppis therewith, as in lyike fort the chancellour haveing shewin no caus thereof, bot the aid of remanding, and therewith to my

Lord Chancellour only as yit, the courfe to be takin thereat, for fome fupplye to my Ladye Elizabethis mariage. In thefe few vnto whome it is alreddy impairted, I do find contrarye opinionis both of allowing and difproveing the holdeing of it; bot heirof your maiestie is to be certified at more lenth by nixt packett. Anent excommunicat noblemen, and the advertifment whiche fuld haife bein long fince fent to your maiestie anent thame, Glafgow dothe excuife himfelf in fo far as both these noblemen ar within St Androis his province. The other layeth the blame vpoun the bishoppis, who wer employed in that fervice; always he hathe vndertakin, that if it be not alreddy done, that it falbe performed with fpeid. In this bufynes betuix my Lord Chamberlyne and Coldenknowes, I haif written to my Lord Fentoun at lenth all difficultyes whiche I do find therein, being afeard if I fuld haif conteyned thame in this fame lettre. and rather referring it to his diferetioun, to be impairted to your maiestie at your highnes best leasure. No packett fall rwnne, bot your maiestie fall vnderstand of my dischairge of some pairte of my laidening, vntill I do cleare myfelf, difburdeyned of whatevir is within my inftructiounis conteyned; wherein, I do humbly entreate your maiesties pardoun, if, in doing thereof, I fuld the more frequently wryite. And wisheing from God the daylie increase of your majesties health and happynes, I humblye kifs your facred hand, and reftis

Your Maiesties most humble and dewtifull fubiect and fervant,

ALEXB. HAY.*

Edinburgh, 4 July.

Sir Alexander Hay, younger son of Alexander Hay of East Kennet. On the 3d February 1610 he was admitted an Ordinary Lord of Session, in room of Lord Holyroodhouse. He was appointed Clerk Register on the 30th of July 1612, and died in 1616.

CXX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY. FEBRUARY 10, 1614.

RIGHT TRAIST FREIND, AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I have refaued yours off the 28 Jan'r., quhairby I onderstand myne was cuimed to your handis off the 21, concerning Rihillis biffines,* quhairoff I am werie glaid, specialie be that vie write to me, I fould shoirtlie, as yie hoiped, heir off ane guid fuccess in that earand. This onlye I have to write to viow; if yie that ar daylie attendantis, domestic and hamelie with his facred maiestie, can nocht moue his maiestie to putt that turne fummarlie and shiortlie to guid end, ypon fa guid and fuire groundis as I have fett down, quhilk in my faule and confcience ar just and equitabill, or then being fa adjured be his maieflies lettir, as I wift, I fould neiuer haue prefuimed to write fa far, if yie, I fay, procure nocht prefentlie, ane finall determination in that caufe, be his maiefties awin fentence, quhilk may be a royall fentence in deid, and wordie off king Solomon, or once wifest monarche; if the mater be putt to farder disputatioun, that lordshippe will melt and vanish away; and nather fall his maiestie, nor onve other, have einer honour or pleasour off the end off the This I write to viow, and wiffis viow communicat the fame to Lord Fentoun, and doe the best yie may, for I can doe na mair for my pairt. Sua, nocht hauing farder bot to wifs viow all happines, reftis

Yiour louing coufing alwayis at command,

Dunfermeline.

Frome Edinburgh, 10 Feb. 1614.

I pray yiow that this may prefent baith my bedfallowis hartlie kindnes to yiouris and my awin.

To my weelbeloued cofen Johne Murraye, of his facred Maiesties Bedchalmer.

 The dispute between Lord Sanquhar and the natural son of the late Lord. The King's award will be found in the Abbotsford Miscellany.

CXXI.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI. June 9, 1614.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

The workis of the filwer myndis being now fo far advanced that the workmen haif begunne to land fume metall, altho far inferiour to the expenses that the wndirtakaris bestow thairvpon, it is necessar your maiesteis plesour touartis the electione ather of the tent part of the mettale, or the threttie part of the filwer efter it be fynned, vpon thair expenses, be knawin. Sir William Alexander* hes a warrant to be past your maiesteis hand for this effect, and I houpe your maiesteie will mak choice of your proportione efter it be fynned, becaus thair is probabilitie of greiter benefeit that way, nor be ressaring of the mettall, to be fynned at your maiesteis charges. The electione beand maid, I fall do my dewtie by taking vpp your maiesteis part exactlie.

Your maiestie hes a letter sent frome the counsell, concerning sume questione that your maiesteis aduocat and myself hes with the archibischope of Santandrois, whairanent, and anent sume wher questiones of the lyk nature, it is defyred that your maiestie wald be pleasit to appoynt sume of your cownsell and sessione to consider and determine: He declynes the advocat and myself as parteis. The chanclour, secretar, president, clerk of the register, and geue your maiestie will be pleasit to adioyne any wtheris with thame, ar weill informed of the bussions, and so wilbe the sittest persones to be employed, geue so be your maiestie sind it to be doune. I declyne to haif any questione with the archbischope, geue materis may be settled in a peaceble maner, and so hes left of all persut of law, till your maiesteis gratious plesour be knawin heiranent. Swa, wisch-

[.] The poet, created Earl of Stirling by Charles I.

ing your maiestie a lang and healthfull lyffe, with all happienes and contentment, I rest

Your facred Maiefteis most humble and faithful feruand.

G. MURRAY.*

Edinbrught, the 9th of June 1614.

To the Kingis most facred Maiestie.

• Sir Gideon Murray held for many years the office of Treasurer-depute of Scotland, and had the entire direction of the revenues, which he managed so well, that, besides keeping the royal residences and fortresses in excellent repair, he was enabled to defray the expenses of the King's visit in 1617. The Earl of Mar was the High Treasurer. The following verses upon Principal and Deputy are from a rare volume, entitled The Poetical Recreations of Mr Alexander Craig of Rose-craig, Scoto Britan. p. 25. Aberdene, printed by Edward Raban for David Melville, 1623.

Once more one poor petition I present,
Marre not the muses, mightie Marr, I pray:
Such as to musicke haue a mynde full bent,
Will saue the sacred Muses from decay.
The dittie giues the diapason grace:
Bee friende to both; for now fits tyme and place.

Replie to a dilatorie answer sent by Sir Gedeon [Murray] to the author:-

Your sub Receiver shew'd mee, you were sorie
You could not so dispatch mee as you would;
And tolde mee on, with stambring Tongue, a storie
Scarse vnderstood, when it was ten tymes tolde.
This difference I put betwixt you two,
Ilee's short in Words, and you in Deedes are slow.

Notwithstanding the beneficial results of his administration of the revenues, King James listened to the accusations of the enemies of Sir Gideon, and he was sent down to Scotland for trial. This affected him so much, that he abstained from food for several days, and died on the 28th June 1621. His son and heir, Patrick, was the first Lord Elibank.

CXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

June 30, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I have refaued baith ziour lettirs off the 18 inftant frome siour good half-marrow, and off the 7 fra my Lord Sanguhair, with all the credict he imparted to me frome ziow, quhairoff I thank ziow hartlie; and speciallie for latting me knaw his maiesties minde towartis Francis Stewart,* quhilk treulie relieuis me off ane greate thocht and cair; for I feared eiuer his maieftie micht fuspect me as confentar to ane bargane likelie to goe fordwart quhither I will or nocht, quhilk I was verie far against, and wrocht be all meanis possibill to ganestand. Fra this furth, I will leiue it to Goddis will and difpositioun, and trubill me na mair thairwith; albeit in treuth I think baith parties micht doe bettir for thair awin weill. In my Lord Sanguharis affaires, be affured I fall continew as I have begunne, and as rafoun and equitie requires. According to his maiefties command, the counfall has fend lettirs to my Lord Scone, to deliuer to his lordship the houss and stuff in St Jhonstoun. I have na newis to impairt to ziow frome this, but fic as I am certane is writtin at lenth be my Lord Secretair. Wee heir be fuin paffagers cuimed fra Orknay, that after his maiesteis shippis was by that cost, the countrie peopill upon fuim guid occasioun has tane a guid number of Inglish pirattis with fuim flaughter on ather fyde. The pirattis was in ane Dutche flippe off twa hundir tunne and aboue, latelie spoiled be thame, laedin with Inglith mennis geir frome eift countries with rye and irne; alwayis off this wee haue zit na particular certantie. Vpon fuim apeirance off fuim grudge betuix my Lord Marqueis of Hamiltoun and Lord Ogilbie and his fonne and freinds, about holding fuim courtis in August at Arbroth, the counfall, to preuent greater harme, has bound baith parties ondir greate foumis to his maiefties peace. Wee have heir as zit ane extraordinair cauld, wittie and windie fomer. I man be hamelie to empesche

[.] Eldest son of Francis Steuart Earl of Bothwell.

ziow now in quhat was eiuer done to me before be my Lord Dumbar. butt once fuite or troubill: He fend to me frome thence eurie zeir out off his maiefties wardroppe ane brodered poolke for carieing the greate feale, fic as my Lord Chancelar caries thair, werie magnific and honeft; for that can nocht be gottin maed beir, or ellis I fould nocht trubill ziow nor nane for ane. Sence my Lord Dumbar departed this lyff, this three zeir I have had nane, and fic as I have, ar worne aulde and nocht fa cuimelie as neid war, quhilk I man wifh ziow, coufing, find meanis to gett fupplied be his maiefties command out off the warderobbe, as hes bein before. Sir Alex Hay, now Clerk of Register, then Secretair, quha was in vie to caufe mak thame, fayes to me be caufed, einer at my Lord Doumbarris directioun be his maiefties command, ane Mr Brodic in the wardrobbe mak thame, and thay war all werie fair in deid, brodered with the armis off Scotland on the first quarter and thridde, Inglish on the fecond, and Irifh in the fourt; and with all ornamentis off baith kingdomes anfuirabill, as I doubt nocht but the faid Mr Brodic, or fuim of his feruandis, has zit the exempill befide thame and patrone; for the laft I had was in the zier 1610, fend to me be my Lord Doumbar. Tak fuim guid courfe for this as zie find beft. Sua, taking my leiue, I reft eiuer

Ziour louing coufing to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, last Junij 1614.

To the right honorabill my affured good freind Jhone Morraye, of his facred Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

CXXIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 8, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL COUSING,

I have refaued ziour kindlie lettir fra my Lord Bischop off Glasgow, and can nocht bot thank ziow off ziour monye testimonies of

kindnes. Quhen eiuer that mater concerning the Chapell Royall fall be handled, I fall doe guid will to my powar, baith for ziour fatiffactioun and Sir Robert Gordounis, as zie recommend to me. Ziour bedfellow is nocht zit returned to this toun, bot I haue ane great complaint to ziow off hir; for na treatie I can mak to hir, shoe will nocht tak ane chalmer heir in the kings house, quhilk my bedfallow made readie to hir, and I think ather zie or shoe fould be als hamelie and privat with me as with onye, and specialie in this house. Because my Lord Fentoun is reteired to Ingilseild for his health the tyme of this progres, zie man excuse my hamelines to trubill ziow with my pacquettis, and to burding ziow to be cairfull my lettirs be furelie delivered.

I recommend to 5iow fpecialie at this tyme to fie deliuered with diligence mine to my Lord Bruntiland,* Sir Robert Meluill, and to my Lady Roxbrough, my fifter. As to onye fic occurrence as wee have heir, I doubt nocht bot 5ie ar participant to fic as my Lord Secretair recites to his maieftie; for all is heir (praifed be God) quiet, in good iuftice and obedience. Thus ending this prefent, wiffis 5iow all weill and happines.

Ziour louing Coufing to ferue 3iow,

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 8 July 1614.

I man nocht forziett to gif ziow speciall thankis for the guid will and fauour, I onderstand of my nepuieu Sir Claud Hamiltoun, zie haue shawin to him in this besines he has had adoe.

To the right honorabill my affured good freind Jhone Murray, in his Maiefties Bedchalmer.

[•] Eldest son of Sir Robert, the first Lord Melville. He was appointed an extraordinary Lord of Session, 26th February 1601, by the title of Lord Burntisland. He succeeded as second Lord Melville in 1621, and, dying without issue, 9th March 1635, the Barony, in terms of the patent, devolved on John Melville of Raith, "grandson of his uncle." See Wood's Douglas, Vol. II. p. 113.

CXXIV .- THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY. JULY 15, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING.

I thank ziów hartlye for ziour kindlye aduertifment, conteined in ziour lettir off the 4 inftant, concerning the variance and rakning falling out betuix my nepuieu, Sir Claude, and the Lord Deputie off Ireland, quhairoff I had fuim worde before be my nepuieu, and off ziour guid will and affiftance geuin him to mantein him, and mak him redde thairoff with his credicte, be right and trew informing his facred maieftie, quhairin I man rackin myfelf ziour debtour, as in meikill mair, quhairfore I fall einer be thankfull, albeit I be nocht in hoipe to haue occasioun to acquite onve pairt of fic obligations, bot rather to trubill ziow farder.

I onderstand the Laird off Skelmuirlie is returned to court. I doubt nocht bot it is to mak fuim wrang narratiues to trubill his maiestie anent the befines of Eglintoun. The last tyme he came hame, he broght ane lettir fra his facred maiestie to my Lord Secretair, and Lord Threafaurar Depute, to trie my nepuieu, my Lord off Wentoun and me, anent fome fuim promeis he alledged wee maid to him; quhairanent, in his prefence, wee gaue the faidis lordis full fatiffactioun be our anfuir. quhairanent he has focht na anfuir fra the faidis lordis, bot is gone in haift thair, to mak fic informations as he may pleis. I man entreate ziow be fuim guid occasioun, latt his maiestie be requeisted nocht to gif him credict in onye thing may concerne my nepuieuis or me, on heiring first our felfis. I wifs also his maiestie war richt informed, or rather remembred off the mannis humour (for his maiestie knawis him weill aneuch); he is ane kittill, mutinous, and onfatled man, full of confaittis, readie to rafe and fteir maa broylis his alane, nor tuentie guid and wyfe men will gett weill quenched. He and his was the first occasioun of the greate trubill fell out betuix the houfis of Eglintoun and Glencairne. He was befief himfelf off onye to mantein the fame, is zit laitheft it fould fullie quenche; and gif it fould, he can nocht leiue without fuim trubill and

befines to himfelf and others. Gif his freinds will nocht affift him to trubill fic as he callis auld ennemies, he will tak him to trubill with freinds. If he [get] guid audience and eare of his maiestie, or onye has greate credict thair, I warrand ziow fall mak befines aneuch, may perhappis after fasche his maiestie, and trubill his quietnes. Gif he be shortlie fend hame to adrefs him to the ordinair cowrfe off lawis, before the ordinair iudges, counfall and fessioun, his maiestie will find in that greatest ease, and is the best course for instice. If he find once extraordinair blenk off fauour thair, as he is inclined, his maiestie will find he will rase mair fturte, and mak maa broiles, nor onye wald luike for. And this I thocht guid [to] acquent ziow with; and pray ziow doe ziour best wee be nocht ciumbred with that mannis importune or onrafonable fuitis. It wald feeme his maiestie fould nocht heir him off new, except he had broght bak agane anfuir fra Lord Secretair, and Threafaurar Depute; quhilk I can nocht learne he fpeired einer for, I think, becaufe he fand thame nocht hallie anfuirabill to his humour and inclinatioun, as he imagined thay wald be.

Other occurrence I can write of nane to ziow, bot that we haue heir, all this fomer, the maift onfeafonabill waddir be daylie ranis, windis, froftis, and cauld, has einer bein hard off in ony mannis remembrance. Our aftronomaris fayis the plannettis off this our climat aperis to be in thair conjunctions, oppositions, and sic aspectis for this zier, in als ill humour, and als far by puirpoifs, as zowr lower house has bein thair at this parliament; for be guid rason, the planettis sould aknawledge the sonne as thair lord and maister, quhome fra thay have all thair light, and sould follow his cowrse, and gid to euric countrie in euric quarter of the zeir, sic wadder as he apoint the sason. Wee man referre all to Goddis mendis, doing the best we may: Sua, I end this, and wissis ziow all weill and contentement.

Jiour louing Coufing to ferue 3iow,

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 15 Julij 1614.

Jie man excufe me to trubill ziow with my pacquettis, fa lang as Lord Fentoun is fra court. I pray ziow direct myn to my fister, Lady Roxbrough, and to Sir Claude, and Sir Robert Mcluill. If thay be cuimed away, returne thame abak agane be the first.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued coufen, Jhone Morraye, of his facred Majefties Bedchalmer.

CXXV.—THE EARL MARISCHAL TO KING JAMES VI.
JULY 28, 1614.

Vpoun recept of your highnes letter, daited at Whitehall, the 24 of Maij last past, as one way I wes (not without just caus) mightely greived to confider of the hard conditioun which perhappis may befall to our ischew heirafter, in being bereft of the residence of there prince, whereof aduantage is taken by those who mak a craft of calumniating others, and procureing thame to be condemned vnhard; fo, on the other pairt, it was to me no fmall confort that I fould now live and, Godwilling, end my dayes in the tyme of a most gratious Pharao, who bothe knowes and will not forgett his evir dcutifull and devoited Joseph. By your maiesties letter I conceave some offence taiken vpoun informatioun maid be the Laird of Halkertoun, as that by me he had bene wronged. If he as a fubiect had bene respectfull of his dewty to his foueraigne, and had caryed a regaird to his place when he is honored to be a feruant, no doubt he had bene more circumfpect, then to have begun the first fruitis of his attendance with delyeuerie against absentis of manifest vntreuthis. I do perfuade my felf vpoun the many infinit prooffes of your maiefteis finceritie, vprightnes, and indifferency to all of your fubicctis, that nothing that hath bene deliuered aganis me wilbe trufted vntill it be tryed. And therefore my humble fuite is, that your maieftie wilbe pleafed to direct your highnes counfel heir to caus call bothe that gentleman (who is fo hard ane informar) and me before them, and to confront ws togither, and according as they shall try ather my misdemeanour or his misreporte, that they certifie your maiestie of the treuth, wherein I doe so farr conside in my owen innocency, that, as far as that particular, I doe not deprecatt any favour. And so, hoiping your maiestie, after the counsellis repoirt, shall judge of the pairty informer or me, according as any of ws fall be found worthye of credite, efter humble kissing your facred hand, and praying God for your maiesties long preservatioun, I rest

Your Maiesties most humble subject and feruant,

Marschall.*

Dunotter, the xxviij of Julij 1614.

To his Maiestie delyuer thais.

• George Earl Marischal succeeded his grandfather, 7th October 1581, and died 2d April 1623. He founded the Marischal College, Aberdeen, and was a public-spirited and intelligent nobleman. He married, first, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Lord Hume, by whom he had William, his successor, and Anne, married to William Earl of Morton; second, Margaret, daughter of James Lord Ogilvie, by whom he had Sir James Keith of Benholm. The second Countess, according to the following letter from the King, does not appear in the most amiable light:—

JAMES R.

Right trustie and right weilbelouit counsellour, right trustie and weilbelouit coosenis and counsellouris, and right trustie and weilbelouit counsellouris, we greet yow weel. Whereas, upon our certanc knowledge of the unkynde, ingrate, and insolent behaviour of the late Erle Marschellis wyfe to hir lord and husband, who, with her sone, • the Laird Thorntoun, and uther is, besyde other indignities, had, in a thifteous bed, the said

[&]quot; These blanks are in the original, which is much destroyed.

CXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY. JULY 29, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL COUSING,

All I can write to ziou at the prefent is, that yifterday the counfall, be the mediatioun of fuim particulars off their number, quhome thay employed in that earand first, has fatled and fullie composed the variance was betuix the Lordis Sanquhar and Kilmaars, and Drumlanrike and his brother; bot nochtwithstanding thair agriand, has fyned the Laird Drum-

To oure right trustie and right welbelovit Counsellour, Sir George Hay of Kinfawnes, oure Chancellar, and to oure right trustie and right welbelowit Consingis and Counsellouris, and to oure trustie and welbelowit Counsellouris, Erles, Lordis, and utheris of our Priuie Counsell of Scotland. lanrike in three thousand markis, for his misbehauiour in fending fic cartellis, in fcar and terrour to others. Thair is also latelie cuimed heir suim worde fra Orknay, of suim trubill and motions rased thair be the Earlis bastard sonne, quha has tane ane house of my lordis, and latelie has tane the kirk and stipill off Kirkoway, principall toun off that cuntrie; is followed be fax or seiuin score eiuill peopill, usis diuers insolencis in all that boundis.* Alwayis, Sir James Stewart is making thairaway in all diligence, with sorcis sic as wee hope fall putt ordour to all wrangs thair, and punish the offendars.

The onhappie accident of Mr Francis Bothuellis flaughter,† I perfuade my felf, is written to ziow at lenth be others; quhairfore I take my leiue, and wiffis ziow all happines.

Ziour louing Coufing to be commandit,

DUNFERMELINE.

Halyruidhous, 29 July 1614.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued Coufing, Jhone Murray, in his facred Maiesties Bedchalmer.

CXXVII.—[SIR LACHLAN] MACINTOSH OF DUNACHTAN TO KING JAMES VI.

August 3, 1614.

PLEIS 30UR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fear off offence in prefumeing to wrett haid maid me altogidder filent, if by my reftrent in warde, and by the vrgent neceffitie

- * See Melros Papers, Vol. i. p. 143.
- † Probably the brother of John first Lord Holyroodhouse.

of my pure estait, lyklie to be vidone by the hard dealing vseit agaynis me, I wer nocht constrayned to haue recourfe to zour maiesties most benigne, vpricht, and just proceidour with all zonr subjectis. My adversarie heir is veric powerfull, whairas both my moyan is mean, and my freindis verie few. If thair wer a challenge of moir fauour and respect, frome him for whois caus my foirbearis and kyn haue fustened fo muche harme, it wold be perhappis accounted by him now forgetfull of fic fervices, to be in me a point of idilnes. Alwayis, for the prefent occasioune of my committing, and of my follong detentioning in ward, by the space of thir tuelf monethis past, it is of treuthe, that whill I wes minor (whiche, in some fort, is a refone for extenuating of the offence), by the advyfe of fum of my evill advyfed vncles, my kyne and freindis being than convevnit, it wes than concludit that thay fould enter in no actioun with ony fubiect, without my knawledge and allowance, whiche wes done vpon a lykliehood of a dew confiderationne of my awin danger, who stude ansuerabill by the flatute of Parliament for my kyn. But when, ypon the Erle of Murrayis complaint of my vsurping this authoritie ower the tenentis of his landis, this wes adjudgeit by the lordis of 3our maiesteis counsall as ane offence, and that I wes thairvpoun committed, haveing now abiddin theis tuelf monethis bypaft in prisone for the same.* In all my supplicationis for libertie, prefented to the counfall, I have no answer returned; bot by speciall letter frome 30ur maiestic, my warding is commandit to be continewit untill I fould prefent certane perfones of my kyne, particularlie nominat in that missive; whairin, however, the importun sute of partie hathe perhappis procureit this directionne, zit I noway dowt, when zour maiestie fall understand the treuthe, that the famin salbe spedellie recallit.

^{• &}quot;Macintoshius," according to the Latin MS. chronicle of the family, "quippe legitimum Catanei nominis Caput et Princeps, ulteriori, eorum in armis progressui restitit, Comitisque Morraviensis apparitori, in verba minus urbana erumpenti, nonnulla inflixit verbera; qua propter et Comes Morraviæ et Dominus Gordonus, mutua in Makintoshium conspirârunt, eumque tanquam oppressionis reum coram Dominis Secreti Consilii citarunt (donec eos, de pacato, suæ familiæ gestu, datis scilicet vadibus, certiores faceret), in arce Ediuburgena incarcerari fecerunt, ubi aliquandiu manserit. Tandem vero, sua apud Aulicos habita gratia, sine ullo adhibito fidejussore pristinæ restituitur libertati." f. 260.

and my releif vpon that refone no longer flayit: For gif 3our maiefteis counfall haue fund it ane offence, that I fould tak ony fort of commandement over my kyne and clane duelling vpon the Erle of Murrayis landis, what of refone can be pretendit to vrge me with exhibiting, or being ansuerabill for theis men nominat in that letter, who have no duelling bot vpon the Erle of Murrayes landes, who have reffaueit rychtis of wodfett fra the erle himfelf of thair poffessionis, with speciall claussis irritant, incais they fould ather obey or ferve ony vther than himfelf? It being also of treuthe, qubilk I protest on my conscience, that it is a mater altogidder impossibill for me to performe. Bot whairas, I have maid offer to the lordis of your maiesteis counsall to find sufficient cautione, under sic payneis as they pleifit, for my appeirance befoir thame at all tymeis, whenfoeuer I fould be cited, as in lyk fort to be ansuerabill for all men, whome ony law or flatute can mak me ony way bund for; and in particular, nocht to middill or vfe ony fort of commandis over ony of the Erle of Murrayis tenentis. And now, fen the Erle of Murray hes nocht onlie dispossest me of all my auld kyndlic rowmeis, deirlie bocht, and worthellie deferveit be my foirbearis frome his progenitouris, with the pryce of our best bluid; and hathe in lyk fort takin fra me the bailgerie of his landis, I can nocht conceave voon quhat refone I fould be thus detevnit in warde, haveing now in my 50ung 5eiris gevin that pruif of my obedience whiche I intend to continew, God willing, to my last breathe: and being willing to find furetie to do quhateuer the moift ftrict law of this kingdome can vrge, I hop zour maiestie will hald it vnreasonabill I sould be burdenit with a mater impossibill. And fen thair is non allyve that can, better than your maieftie, diftinguische betuix richt and wrong, I rest affured, that vpoun the reiding of my letter, zour hienes pleafour falbe fpedallie retourneit to the counfall, fo as my lang warding hathe nocht tryit fo greaveous to me, as the contentment I fall reflaue of the vprichtnes of my moift gratious fouerane, who doithe nocht spare to heir the complayntis of the pureft, being at libertie bothe moir abill, and in confcience profeffing my felf ener moift willing to suppres all fort of dissobedience, and to gif pruif of my moift dewtifull affectioune, inferiour to no fubiect quhatfoeuer, of my rank in 50ur maiesteis fervice: For whois guid estate, and long continewance over vs, as in dewtie I am moist instly bund to pray, fo fall I euer remayne

Jour Maiesteis most humbill and obedient subiect,

MAKINTOSCHIE of Dunachtan.*

From 50ur Maiesteis Castell off Edinburgh, this 3 August 1614.

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

CXXVIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1614.

MOST ASSURED AND LOVING COUSING,

Thir few lynis ar only to lat 50w kno that I am prefentlie going to my fchippe for Yrland, by that menis to geve his facred maiestie

• Sir Lachlan Macintosh of Dunchattan succeeded his grandfather in 1609. In the previously mentioned chronicle of the Macintosh family, entitled, "De Origine et Incremento Makintoshiorum, epitome," MS. Advocates' Library, it is stated: "Anno 1612, sibi matrimonio conjunxit Annam Grant, Domini a Grant filiam natu maximam, ex qua tres habuit filios, Gulielmum, Lauchlaoum, et Æneam, et filiam unam, nomine Isabellam. Filiam etiam notham habuit, quæ, succedente nullo progeniei monumento, morti occubuit." He got involved in a series of disputes with Lord Gordon, which lasted till the year 1619, when, continues the chronicler, "Dominus Gordonus et Makiutoshius, nonnullis intercedentibus amicis, Edinburgi quandam amicitiæ inierunt speciem. Verum cum postea Dominus Gordonus, Allani Cameroni caussam, adversus Makiutoshium, susceperat, durante Makintoshio, aliquæ semper inter ipsos viguere discordiæ."

In 1617 the honour of knighthood was conferred on him, and Sir Lachlan was appointed one of the gentlemen of the Bedchamber to Prince Charles, by whom he was much favoured, and who "made him a present of the sword he wore himself, which is still preserved in the family." Douglas' Baronage, p. 352. He died at Gartenbeg in Strathspey, on his return from London, on 22d June 1622, in the 29th year of his age, and was buried in the church of Petty.

contentment, quhois feruice, God willing, I fall euer prefer to any thing els in this warld: And fence, boithe by his maiefteis laft letter, and my brother Sir Claudis* informatioun, I find fuche affurance of the continowence of his maiefteis love, I will flryve to geve proife that the continowence of that fall be my greteft greid, not dowting quhen his maiefteis fall find beft occasionis, I fall be rememberit in the number of his maiefteis most faithfull and humble ferviteurs; for quhilk, I think never to spare nather my body nor menis, quhen it fall pleis his facred maieftei to command, altho thair be fum that waild willinglie offer to me all the difficulteis thai could, as I can not bot remember 30w of that I wrette in my last letter. This, most loving cousing, with the remembrances of my most humble dewte, I defyre 30w to signesse to his facred maiestie that I am gone for his service, and that 30w will favour me with 30ur commandementis, geve I can do 50w any fervice in that kingdome, as I will ever rest.

Zour most loving cousing,

ABERCORNE.

Southenan, the 12 of September 1614.

Loving coufing, I will pleis 30w caufe this vther letter be delyverit to Sir James Fullerton, in diligence.

To my most loving cousing, Mr Jone Murray, one of his most facred Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

Sir Claud Hamilton was the second son of Claud Lord Paisley, and brother to James, the
first Earl of Abercorn, the writer of this letter. He obtained extensive grants of land in Ireland,
and was, 6th October 1618, made constable of the Castle of Toome, in the county of Antrim, for
life.

[†] This letter does not occur in the collection.

CXXIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1614.

GOOD MR MURRAY,

I received your letter yesternight, and have thought it fitt this prefent day to returne you an aunswere, that it may appeare what the truthe is of the matter in question. I pray you deliver vnto his majesty the copy of the fermon which I fend heerewithall, and the letter of Mr Ball,* the authour thereof, vnto my Lord of London, whose paines I was forced to vie in that businesse, because I was not well when the complaint was first brought vnto mee; but I tooke account of it strictly as soone as possibly I could, and if I had found the report to have bene true, I had both acquainted his majefty therewithall, and should have bene an humble futer that fome fevere punishment might have bene layd vpon him, whereof not long fince I gaue example in a like cafe yet depending, as his majefty may remember. But fince I found that it was a miftaking, I hold it better to suppresse all stirring in it, because I hold it not good that any fuch buzzes should bee putt into the heads of idle people, when there is no ground of truthe. The enormity of rogues and vagrant beggers whereof hee fpake is fuch and fo greate, that certainly it will one time or other do greate hurt in this kingdome, if it be not prevented, as yefterday diverse of vs did fay at the counsell table upon another occasion. I trust his majesty, vpon the reading of this fermon, will give some prefent order to that behalfe.

I fend my fervant fo fpeedily with this letter to know whither it bee his maiefties pleafure, that now having the copy of this fermon, and finding the truthe of thinges, I should attend him at Theobalds or not, which, it feemeth by your letter, that his maiefty doth not necessfarily require. But if it bee his majesties pleasure, I will come by day or by night, through

Richard Ball, then holding the living of St Christopher's. His letter, dated August 29, 1614, transmitting the sermon that had excited the suspicions of the King, is amongst the Balfour Papers; but the sermon itself has not been preserved.

wett or drye, and shall observe this while I live, ficke or whole, according to my duty. But if I might be fpared, I defire to be at Croydon tomorrow vpon this occasion. There is an old gentleman of Surrey, called Mr Dorrel, a man of faire eftate, but himfelfe, his wife, and all his children, greate recufant Papifts; fo that one of his fonnes, for denyeing the othe of allegeance, was convicted upon a præmunire, and lay long in Newgate, till, by his maiesties grace, at your intercession, hee gave some mony for compositioun, and obtained his pardon. On Monday last, another sonne of this old Mr Dorrells, a proper gentleman, about 24 yeeres of age, and one who hath bene at St Omers, at Doway, and diverfe other places in those partes, came vnto mee, being somewhat prepared before by an honest divine; and after much conference which I had with him, was contented to heare prayers in my chappell, and afterward teftifyed that hee very well approoved the fame. I difmiffed him for that time, but tooke his promife that hee should bee with mee tomorrow at Croydon churche, where I told him, that, God willing, hee should heare mee preache, and fee the reverend behaviour of our publicke congregations, which hee had never beheld in all his life. So this night I looke for him, being to come fixteene or feaventeene miles of purpofe; and tomorrow I hope publickly to engage him in an affembly of more then a thousand persons, which I do the rather defire to accomplish, because he telleth mee that, as the greatest part of his fathers kindred are Papists, so there was never any of his mothers kinne or name which were of our religion. Her father was named Gage, and indeed I know none of that name but they are Papifts; and yet there are many of them in Suffex. Now, I am glad to take this day, because the next Sunday I am to waite upon the kinge at Hampton Court, and fo forward. I forbeare further to trouble you, but reft.

Your very loving frende,

G. CANT.

Croydon, Septemb. 17, 1614.

[•] George Abbot, D.D. He died at his palace at Croydon, in 1633, aged 71.

CXXX.-THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY. October 3, 1614.

Moist Loving Cousing,

Having fpent thir thre wekis passit in trying and clering all maters questionabill betuixt my cousing Sir James Hamilton, and Sir Hew Mongomere, als weill in the marchis of thair landis as vtherwayis, quhairin, I thank God, I have maid ane gud progres, as I hope to bring it to ane happe end for thame boithe, and to many gentilmen of gud faschion duelling under thame in this kingdome, quhair thai have above 2000 habill Scottis men, weill armit heir, rady for his maiesties fervice, as that fall be commandit. Thir many, I will certefe zow, I had at on dayis hunting with my felf, fence my heir cuming, quhilk, I most confes, did incourage me the les to spare my travellis to put thame and holde thame in concorde, vtherwayis foirfeing ruyne to thame felfis by diffeord, not without greit hinderans to his maiesteis service. And I beleve his majestie, being trewle informit of my proceding is, fall think I do him no lytill fervice heirin; for beleve me, thir gentilmen leving in concord, as I trust now that fall, being favored and allowit by his maiestie in gud and ciuill coursis, altho thai be mere gentilmen, his maiestie may assuredlie expect grait fervice of thame in this kyngdome; and befydis thame, be affurit, thair ar no corner in the northe, quhairin thair is not gud numbers of our nation: and quhat I have at Straban I will not tak notice myfelf, leving it to vthers. Thair is cravit throch this kyngdome, by direction frome the Lord Depute and counfall, alfweill frome the vndertakers as others, ane voluntar fupple and fre gift, as that call it, to his maiestie, quhairin, it feiris me, thai do muche wronge his maiestie. I refavit ane letter frome Sir Tobe Cafeild for this effect, to guhom I have

answarit, that geve I fould haif occasioun to be at any publik meting for that biffines, I waild maift willinglie explaine my affectioun to my gratious maifters fervice, having nothing bot that quhilk I acknowlage to be his and frome him; and to the berar of his letter and my answar, quhilk was Mr Hare Achefon, I faid vnto him, geve his maiestie fouild have occafioun to crave any thing of me in that faschion in this kyngdom, I could never mak offer of les then one yeiris rent at leift. This I gaue out of purpois to mak vthers the moir fre, and that vtheris fouild not tak advantage of me and honest men of our natioun in this kyngdome, and certefe his maieflie, as I have faid I have nothing in this woirld qubilk I will not be rady to lay down at his facred feit, and myfelf with all, to be disposit ypon at his royall plefour; and quhat I fay for myfelf, I do in lyk fort for all thois guhome of I fall have power and credit; and specialle I geve this affurance for Sir James and Sir Hew, heir prefent with me. Quhairfoir, geve it pleis his maieftic, quho, out of his grait wifdome, confiders the hardnes of our beginning is in this kyngdome, to defyre quhat is ours, we defyre to vnderstand his facred maiesteis gratious plesour, and, notwithflanding of our poverte, his maieftie fall haue profe of our love and radines, and that we fall, as we ar bund of all dewte, prefer his ftrait to our awin meferies. Sir Hew Mongomere is in building ane fyin houffe at the Newton, quhairof ane quarter is almost compleit, and Sir James Hamilton hes buildit at Killileuche ane very stronge castell; the lyk is not in the northe. Efter I have put ane end to thair questionis, and cleret thair guhole marches, I purpois to go to Straban, guhilk, I think, fall be about the 6 of this inftant. It is thocht the parliament fall go fordwart heir the 11 of this inftant, befoir quhilk tyme I purpofe to haue my brother Sir Claud at Dublyn, guha now is at Straban taking ordour for his building is. I hope 3e will acquent his facred maieftie with my defyre to know his plefour, and in all diligence lat me be certefeit thairof, quhilk I will expect in this kyngdome befoir the 24 of this inftant. This, I truft, ze will tak in gud pairt, as no fervice I fall be habill to do zow can be trublefum to me. I wiffe ze fouild wrete to my Lord Secretar of Scotilland to derect your answar in all diligence to my bedfallow at Paslay, quha thairefter in all haift will not faill to derect the fame to me.

Thus, my most loving dewte rememberit to zour felf and zour moist woirthie lady, I rest

Zour most loving cousing,

ABERCORNE.

It may pleis 30w to prefent my most humble fervice to his facred maiestie.

Bangor, the 3 of October 1614.

To my most loving Cousing, Mr Jone Murray, of his facred Maiesteis Bedchalmer, at Court, with spede, and in his absence to his Lady, and Sir James Fullerton.

CXXXI.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO [JOHN MURRAY?] October 6, [1614?]

SIR,

In this vacatioun tyme, haveing fome reafoun of more privat reteiring, inregaird of my laite vifitatioun in the loife of my bedfellow, I tooke occasioun to review some of the olde recordis in the Registre, and by collationeing of former thinges with this present tyme, I haif deprehendit my maister to haif ressaived a greitt prejudice; for it hathe bein evir in my tyme muche marvelled, how the landis in the west pairtes of this kingdome such haif bein so high retoured, and the landis in the northe pairtes, and in the choicest pairtes of our countrey, as Fyife and Lothiane, to be so far vndervallewit. Heirvpoun I haif begune with a shyire or tuo, comprolleing thereby past retours with the present, and sindes the

oddes fo greitt as his maiestie in tyme past hes bein very far interest in his proffeitt, for not in wairde landis only, bot in blenfh alfo, endureing the tyme of the nonentrye, the kingis maiestie gettis the retoured dewtye veirlye, and this is a speciall poynte wherewith the sheriffis yeirlye in the Exchecker ar burdeened in there accomptes. Now, whereas his maiestie in tyme past for fourtie pundis bathe gottin only ten pundis, and fometymes fkairfe foure pundis, this, in many fmall particularis, wald turne to no meane prejudice. The reafoun how this hathe befallin is cleare to haif bein done in his maiesties own minoritye, and in the best aige of his mother, of bliffed memorye; and lyike aneugh most of them haif done it of ignorance, for tuo yeiris befoir Pinkye Feild, to wit, in 1545, the toun of Edinburgh wes by our neighbouris brunte, and then many menis particular evidentis, and the most part of all registeris, bot some few whiche wer in the caftle, wer all confwimed; fo that fenfyne every man prefwimeing that nothing wes extant to controll them, they retoured there landis at pleafour, and fo vndervalewed them as skairfe they keiped the fixt pairt of the proportioun of there former retoures. Now, my controlment fall proceide vpoun goode warrantis of there owne retouris from the tyme of Flowdoun to Pinkye. Now, as for the compassing of the busines, it hathe in itself no difficultye at all, being so cleare that no wryter boye will put questioun in it. Bot it tuiches many, and the greitt ones moste, who, howevir they haif gottin their landis frielye of his maiefties predeceffouris, vit ar they loathe, according to our Scottishe proverbe, to give him kaile of his awne peittis, and every one tryis still to haif from the crowne, bot very few ar willing to returne any thing back to it. Alwayes, for the profequateing of the bufynes, the more quyett the mater be keipt, it wilbe the easier compassed. There neideth nather parliament, nor assemblie, or conventioun of estaites. It fall not require recommendatioun ather to fessioun or counsell, generall or particular. Bot if his maiestie do allow that I fuld proceide in it, I will break this iyee where it is thinneft, and will procure fome cleare decifionis agans fome of my owne freyndis in the northe, and fo, peice and peice, bring it fordward in feverall corneris of the countrey, where there falbe leift refiftance; and the greitt ones falbe then eshaimed to oppoife. I haif communicatt this ma-

ter as vit to no fleshe alvive bot vnto his maiesties advocatt, becaus I neide not the concurrence of any other at first in it; and as his maiestve desvires any otheris to know of it, it will not be the worfe to spaire it vntill the turne be ryiper. As for my owne pairt, I mak no exceptioun of any perfoun in this bufynes; nather do I propone to my felf any project of rewairde. If the bufynes do fray me weill for his maiefties proffeitt, fo as his maiestie may find that I am a weillwilled dewtifull fervant, I haif obteyned my intent. I haif written this particular vnto you to be impairted to his maiestic, and that I may understand back againe of his maiesties pleafour whither I fuld proceide or furceafe. As for the reafonis wherefor I wald haif the mater fomuche keipt vp, no questioun the knowledge of it wilbe the croffeing of it, and heirof at fome other tyme. If his maiestie so requyre it, I can give more particular remonstrance. Bot there is one thing that wald be adverted into, that when as this mater fall breake furth, it may that fome propone as a grounde of a fwite at courte to haif the bigones of the vndervalewing. Bot his maieftie must be pleafed to referve this to be dischairged by way of gratuitye to the whole subiectis generallye, they amending the errouris of all there retouris; whereby his highnes fall haif his owne, and the fubicctis must acknowledge to haif reflaived very greitt favoure. Eftir you haif communicatt the mater with his maiestie vpoun the first goode occasioun, I hoipe you will certific me of his pleafour. There is no nobleman nor gentleman in the countrey bot makis his best vse of his chartour kist; and I think there is muche more reasoun that these who servis his maiestie suld sie and endevour to help where the crowne hathe bein hurte. So, till nixt occasioun, I tak my leave, and reftis

Youris at command,

ALEXB. HAY.*

Edinburgh, 6 Octob. [1614?]

There is an admirable letter from Sir Alexander, detailing the captures of certain pirates by
Macleod of the Lewis, prioted in the second volume of the Analecta Scotica. It is there erroneously ascribed to Lord Fosterseat, a mistake arising from these persons bearing the same name, and
being both Lords of Session.

CXXXII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY. November 25, 1614.

GOOD HONEST JHONNE,

I haive vryttin this letter vnto 3ou in regaird of the prefentt straitt thatt our freind the laird of Vachtune stands into; for he is fo huntitt be the laird of Quhitingham, as thair is no mefur in itt. Itt is a hard mater that a juffice of paice in execution of his office being very neir mift of his lyf, and his neir freind innocentlie flain, albeit he hes committit ain error in his furie, 5itt that he should be so hardlie perseuitt. I defyr not that his maiestie should knaw that I deill any thing in this mater, for it may be he think that I deill only out of my particular fauor to my freind. Itt is treu I can nott deny bott I loue the laird of Vachtune, bott this I vill fay, that I vill varrand theis quha veris hagbutts shall go plaintie aneuh in the cuntrie, from this furth, befoir a justice of pace putt to his hand to mend itt. I vill prey 3ou to deill be all the menis 3e can to gett the day continuitt, till freindis may doe thair best to fattill itt. I heir his maiestie gatt a fyn entermiwit goshalk from my Lord of Shreufberrie. I heir fhee fleis the herrin. I knau fhee vill not mak the king gritt plefur thair. Gif 3e vill gett hir and fend hir to me, I vill think 3ou a good fellow. I vill fay no more, bott I prey zou remember on Vachtune. Thus I reft.

Your louing goffup,

A. MARR.

Holyroudhoufs, the xxv. of Nouember 1614.

As for this mater of Vachtuns, fens the vrytting of this letter, freinds are deling in itt fo as 5e fhall deill no thing in that mater vith his ma-

iestie till 3e heir from me againe. Now, gif 3e be a good fallow, and vill send me the auld tersell, I vill say itt is gossups cours: gif other vays, doo quhat 3e may, I knau his maiestie vill nott forgett me quhen his ramage balks cums in.

To my very louin freind, Jhonne Murray, on of the Groums in his Maieftis Bedchallmer, gif this.

CXXXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 6, 1614.

MOST ASSURED AND LOWEING CUSIGNE,

I refawit zour letteris befoir my cuming furthe of Irelande; and in the particular, I wryte vnto 30w anent the voluntar contributioun there, to be given to his maiestie, I had takin that same course ze did advysse me by zour lettir, as his maiesteis plesour bessoir the ressait thaiross, bot I think now all fall turne to ane generall fubfidye. Thir few lynis ar onlye to accompany Sir Hew Montgomerye and Sir James Hamiltounis lettiris, defyreing 30ur freyndlie ayde and affiftance with his maiestie in their favouris, as ze wil be bettir informed of by the particular of their awin letteris, quhilk ar wryttin at large; for quhilk Sir Hew Montgomerye did defyre me to crave 50ur pardoun for him. Alfo, I defyre to be certifyet by 3our letter give his maiestie be pleased to creat, at my defyre, those twa barrounis in Ireland, as his facred maiestie, diverse tymes, hes beine pleaffed to promeife vnto me, whereoff, iff fo it had pleafed God, I thocht his maiestie by ane other fowld have beine remembered, quhilk fince it hes pleafed God to prevent by his deathe, I am conftrayned to be moir trublesome vnto 30w as my deir freynd; and I expect those twa I sould

have created falbe the first, whereoff, also, by my brother, I had his maiefties promeiffe. Seiknes at the present makis me moirt schort, bot I fal evir rest

Jour thankfull and loweing freynd to ferve 50w,

ABERCORNE.

Edinb, the 6 of December 1614.

To my most affured and loweing cusigne, Mr Johne Murraye, one of his facred Maiesties Bedchamber.

CXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 9, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND WEELBELOUED COUSING,

I haue nocht writtin to ziow this quhyle, because I had na subject off moment to impairt to ziow. At the present I haue this aduertisment to mak to ziow, to be impairted to our maist gracious sourane. Sence thir rebellis off Yla, besidis the inuading and possessing thame selfis with his maiesties house of Duniwayge, presumed also maist trasonablie to tak the Bischoppe off the Iles sonne, and the Laird of Ransurlie* his cheist, to be as pledgis to thame, to haue quhat condicions thay pleased require; onderstanding weill his majesties royall minde nocht habill to condescend to entir in onye condicions with sic peopill, and knawing also weill his heighnes forcis ouir sufficient to dantoun all the pride off sic barbarous limmers, as his maiestie had send his directions, quhilk are still going fordwart, sufficient to bring all thair to his will. Considering, neiuertheless, still that the parrell off these gentilmen, al-

Knox—his descendants settled in Ireland; and the present representative of the family is the Earl of Ranfurlie of that kingdom, and Lord Northland in England.

beit, too rakleslie cassin in that danger, could nocht be bot werye onpleafand to his gracious maieftie; as it wald also haue tuiched this haill eftaitt, and us all in honour, if thay had gottin once fkaith, I was maift cairfull for thair releiff, and thairfore fand out ane man off my awin, quha had guid Irifli, and on his ondertaking, upon fuim auld acquentance he had with Angus Ogg McDonald, quha is the cheiff off all thir outlawis, that he thocht he wald be habill to perfuade him to deliuer to me the faid gentilmen free, I directed him about the beginning off Nouember to goe thair: gaue him na write off mine with him, nor powar to gif thefe men onye promeis frome me off onye particular condicion, bot gif he could on guid rafons, and apeirance of guid generallis, alluire thame to the deliurie and freedome of the gentilmen, I promift to himfelf honest rewarde off his maieftie. He went thair with greate difficulties off wadder and otherwayis, and in end and conclusioun, dealt fa with these rebellis, as he has broght hame frie the twa gentilmen (quhairoff I thank God), butt onve promeis or condicioun. Farder, thay fend to me with him the keyis of the house, with this worde, thay will be content to deliuer the house to onye I fall pleis fend thair to ressaue and keip it, with onye cumpanie thairfore, on this onlye defirie of thairis, that thay may have frie libertie to haue accefs, ather to his maiestie or to his counfall, to declair thair awin pairtis; and quhou thay ar fallin or cafin in this troubill, thay fay thair fould be found leitill falt in thame, and mair in others. The confideratioun off this I remitt to his facred maiefties royall wifdome. I will nocht meddill in the like off that, but speciall warrand and directioun. His maieftie knawis I professed einer ignorance in all Irische cabale.

I hoipe his maieftie will think thir gentilmennis releiff guid feruice. The bifchioppes fonne has faid to me, thay bofted thame eiuer, gif onye feige came frome his maieftie to that houfe, thay fould be fett out ouir the wals to kep the first shoittis. The gentilman quha has bein my moyenner and doar of this feruice, is ane Rofs man, called George Grahame.* I promist to him, gif he fould bring me hame the prisonnars,

^{*} The Chancellor got into a scrape by dealing with this man, who, if we may believe his Lordship, exceeded the powers entrusted to him. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 200—209.

as he has done, for his chargis and recompense at leift ane thousand markis Scottis, and quhat farder rewairde fould pleis his maieftie allow on him. I will nocht brake my condition with him, bot fall fatissie him before this be at ziow, and fendis ziow thairfore heirwith ane precept to be figned be his maiefties most gracious hand, to command the threfaurar depute heir to rander me that meikill filuer. Nane will think it eiuill bestowed. Or the men had nocht bein releiued, for his maiesties and effaitis entres and honour, I wald rather have parelled the lofs off ten thousand off my awin. His maiestie may remembir, to sic privie movennis, for fmall foumis I had Jhone Dow McAlaster, the greatest limmer, and brokin man in all the North, and his brother baith putt out: the ane execute in this toun, the other with twa of his marrowis brunt in ane house, because they wald nocht rander. For this I gaue three thousand mark. Ane other McGillieworike, I had broght into this toun, and execute, ane flark theiff and captane off theifis, a Barrabbas infignis latro, [who] trubled all the Cabroch and Braa of Mar: for him I gaue ane thousand mark. Quhilk foumes, be his maiefties command, was remburfed to me be my Lord Dumbar, and Sir Jhone Arnott; like as I haue his maiesties generall command to threafauraris to deburfe at my defire, onve fic fournis upon fic occasions; bot I think meitest [to] have his maiesties fpeciall allowance for the feruice in eurie particular. I will omitt na thing may ly in my power or capacitie to doe his maiestie guid feruice. All this I remitt to the imparting to his facred maieftie, at guid tyme and opportunitie. God preferue his maiestie. Sua, wissing 3iow all weill, reftis

Jour maift affectionat Coufing to be commandit,

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Edinburgh, 9 Decr. 1614.

Thair is latelie cuimed to this toun, fuim worde of fuim late flaughter

committed in the Iles, in the Ile of Jura, on his maiefties guid fubiectis, the particularis quhairoff I remitt to my Lord Secretairis and Sir Gedeonis relatioun, for thay ar mair particularlie aduertifit off the fame.

CXXXV.—REASONS FOR THE BURROWS OF SCOTLAND IN SUPPORT OF THEIR FREIGHTS OF FOREIGN SHIPS.

JANUARY [1615?]

REASONIS for the Burrowis of the Kyngdome of Scotland, quhairfoir thair libertie aucht not to be reftrayned in the frauchting of forraine fchippis and boddomis for transporting of thair guidis to and fra the faid kyngdome.*

First, Thay protest, as nature and dewtie bindis thame, that they are most willing to prefer thair awin countriemen and schipping to any strangeris in the warld in the caice forsaid, yea, ewin with evident and seine loss of thair awin accordis; bot if this proceed fra ony constitutioune, or public restraint, or prohibitioune, to be maid be his maiestie, they sear it fall produce suche dangerous effectis, as may evert and overthrow thair haill feafairing tred and schipping for ewer.

Becaus that prefident and example, the kynges and prynces of vther kyngdomes no doubt wilbe inducit, for the benefeit of thair awin fubjectis, to mak the lyik conflitutionis within thair dominiounis; and if fo be thair is nathing to be expected but decay and wrack to our fchipping, infamikle as the greittest number of the best schippis of Scotland ar continuallie imployed in the service of Frenschemen, not onlie within the dominionis of France, bot also within the boundis of Spayne, Italie, and Barbarie, quhair thair tred lyis, quhilk is ane cheist caus of the incres of the number of Scottis schippis and of thair mantenance: quhairas be the

[·] See Balfour Annals, vol. ii. p. 57, 58; and Melros Papers.

contrairie, the half of the number of fchippis quhilkis ar prefentlie in Scotland, will ferue for our awin privat tred and negotiatioune, if we haid not this benefeit and commoditie of ftrangeris.

This is nocht to be esteimed ane naiked prefumptione vpone our pairt, becaus we have alreddye found the practize thairof in France, in fa mikle as vpone informatione gewin to the Kyng of France and his maiefties counfell thair, that this publict prohibitione of the frauchting of schippis belanging to strangeris in England or other pairtis, they have beine pleased to mak the lyik prohibitioune within the dominiounis of France; quhilk taking executioune laitlie in Normandie againis ane Inglifch fehip, and ane vther Dutche fehip, quhilkis being laidned with Frenche commodities, the maifteris and marineris thairof wer compellit to difburden the fame of the faidis commodities, and returne toome and emptie to thair awin cuntries. So also the lyik wes intendit; becaus ane Scottis bark perteyning to Andro Allane, quhilk that fame tyme wes alfo laidned with Frenche merchandice, and no doubt wald have beine practized againis thame, hed not the maifteris and marineris of the faid bark pretendit greitter immunitie be the ancient alliance and leagues maid betuix the kyngdomes of France and Scotland nor other ftrangeris; and that they wer compellit to alledge that thair wes no reftraint maid in Scotland of any libertie quhilk Frenfchmen haid ewer injoyed thair before, and to find cautioune to report ane autentick testimoniall thairvpone from Scotland, as may appeir both be the proces quhilk wes deducit at Rowane heirvpone, and by the lettres of the Scottis factouris fent heir to the provest of Edinburgh, testifieing the premisses to be of veritie; fwa that if this publict restraint and prohibitioune haue place heir in Scotland, we neid not to luike for any tred in France, without quhilk nather can our fchipping nor tred of merchandice ftand, bot all will turne to ane pitifull wrack and confusioune, for we ar not in sic caice heir in Scotland as the fubjectis of vther kingdomes, quhairin thair is continuall intercourse and commoditie by refort of strangeris, by guhome thair welth and estait growis; and thair is no strangeris that repairis to this kyngdome, except fic as importis tymber and other grofs merchandice of fmall woorth.

Secundlie, If our libertie in frauchting of ftrangeris fchippis heir in Scotland be reftrained, we wilbe compellit to leave our tred of heringis, quhilk we transport to the eift countries, because the best occasionne of the transport thairof is offred onlie in the monethis of September and October, in the quhilk seasone we have the commoditie of sum Dutche schippis heir, quha hes imported tymber within this realme, and wilbe content to transport our guidis for the thrid of the fraucht quhilk Scottis schippis may serve for; becaus, if they want this imployment, they will return emptie; and the awneris of Scottis schippis can not undertak thir voyages bot vpone greit and exorbitant frauchts, seing they wilbe constrayned to by the maist pairt of the wynter seasone in the eist countries, be reasone of the frostis incloseing thame thair. If thir frauchtis wer gewin by merchandis, they wald report no gayne nor commoditie by that tred, and so must leave the same, to the hurt and prejudice of the whole kyngdom.

It is also to be confidder that Scottis schippis can not convenientlie ferue for the importing of waynscott, knaphult, tar, and vther groß waires within this kingdome, becaus they ar nocht able to serue vpone so easie conditiounis as Dutche schippis, quha ar feruit by thrie or sour marineris at the maist; and if greit frauchtis were giwen for such wares, all the wairis aboue writtin culd scarsie be fald for dowble pryce, quhilk wald turne to the hurt of the haill kyngdome.

CXXXVI.—SIR R. MACLEOD TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 7, 1615.

Most Gratious and Sacred Soverane,

Since it hes bene the goode pleafour of God, by 30ur maiesteis most prudent and happie governament, and to 30ur maiesteis immortall prais and commendationne, with the exceiding grit confort of all 30ur faithfull subjects, to blis this 30ur maiesteis kingdome with ane

vniverfall peace and quietnes, throughout all the nukis and cornaris thairof, especiallie in the Yllis and Heylandis; fwa, that now the hoip and expectationne of inflice makis all men to feik redres of thefe wrangis, quhairin thir mony yeiris bygane, through the iniquitie of the tyme, thay haif bene filent. So it is, that I and my prediceffouris, being heretable tenentis to zour maiestie and zour predicessouris of the landis of Slait, North Vft, and vtheris landis lyand in the North Yllis, quhairin we war heretablie infeft be 30ur maiefteis worthie goodfir of famous memorie efter his perfyte aige, the Clandonald, quho, efter the daith of zour maiefteis faid goodfir, wer of griteft power, force, and freindfchip in the Yllis, did moft violentlie detrude my forbearis furth of oure faidis landis with grit flauchter of diverfe of thame, efpeciallie of my father, brothir, and vther kynnifmen, and by fyre and fuord mantenit thair violent poffeffioune aganis my forbearis and myfelf fenfyne; and I having now enterit myfelf as air to my father brethir in the faidis landis, and being infeft and feafit thairintill, and zour maiestie being lykewayis gratiouslie pleasit at my laite being with zour maiestie, to dispone vnto me the nonentrie of the faidis landis, I hawe thairypone intentit actioune befoir zour maiesteis fessionne, for recoverie of my possessionne and richt of the faidis landis; in the quhilk actioune, I am lyke to fustene fome prejudice by the practezeis and dealing of my adverfair pairtie, Donald Gorme of Slaitt, quho taking hald of that act of parliament, quhairby the inhabitantis of the Yllis war ordaneit to exhibeit and produce thair infeftmentis befoir zour maiesteis chekker, to the effect the tenour and conditiounes thairof micht haue bene knawin to thame, the faid Donald, vpone my alledgit failzie in that poynt of the exhibitioune of my infeftmentis allenerlie, intendis to furneis actioune and pley aganis me, and vpone that onlie caus to detene and withhald fra me my lauchfull heretage. Althocht it be of trowth that I and all my prediceffouris haif euir constantlie profest zour maiesteis obedience, and did nevir kyth in counfall, actioune, or hostilitie with ony of the rebellis of the Yllis aganis zour maieftie, lykas, I myfelf, in the fourfcoir fextene zeir of God, gaif my compeirance befoir zour maielteis counfall, and at that tyme fand cautioune for my conformitie in all tymes thairefter; and I, thairvpone, fimplie apprehending that the faid act of

parliament could nawayis ftryke aganis me, quho wes a lauthfull fubiect, bot that the famene wes maid and devyfit aganis the rebellis and brokin men of the Yllis, in the quhilk nomber I difdanit to rank myfelf, I ignorantlie, and not vpone contempt, failled in that poynt of the productioune of my infeftmentes, quhilkis I could not produce the tyme of the making of the faid act, in respect the faid Donald Gorhame stud than infeft in the faidis landis, haldin of zour maieftie, and continowit in the violent poffessionne of the famene, lykas he zit does; and I am bot laitlie prouet and retourit air to my faid father brether in the faidis landis, quhairin I am certane that it is not zour maiesteis meaning, that any advantage fall be tane of me, bot that I fall haif inflice aganis the faid Donald notwithflanding thairof, or of my objectioune that can be moved aganis me thairvpone, the faid act of parliament being onlie maid to draw brokin Ilifmen to obedience, and not to fnair fimple, ignorant, and lauthfull fubiectis. In confiderationne quhairof, I am bauld in all fubmiffioune and reverence to haiue my recours vnto zour facred maieftie, as the fontane fra guhome all zour distressit fubiectis ressaues confort, and in all humilitie to befeik zour maiestie to wryte in my favouris to zour maiesteis sessionne. willing thame to proceid and minister instice vnto me aganis the faid Donald and vtheris, violent possessories of my landis and heretage, notwithflanding of the faid act of parliament, and the not productioune of my infeftmentis, or ony thing that may refult or follow thairypone. And fo, crawing pardone for this my prefumptioune, humblie praying God lang to preferve zour maiestie in zour blissit governament, that we zour poore fubiectis may, in tyme of our diffresse, haw oure recourse to zour maiestie, Lreft

Jour most humble and obedient fervitour,

SR. R. MACLEOID.

Edinburgh, 7 Januarij 1615.

To the Kingis Maiestie.

CXXXVII.—JOHN CARSE TO THE BISHOP OF ROSS.• JANUARY 10, [1615?]

My LORD,

I receaued your lordfchipps letter yefternight. Mafter Geddie has vndertook the fafe conveyance of this. This day I am glad of your lordfhips counfell; and as it may concern me, I wil ply my endeavores to practeis. Benedicat Dominus! Your lordfchipp defyres to know the challenge and challengers; my Lord of Brichen† will be pleafed, I hope, when he cums, to clear that poynt. They who preffed me with it fayd that the vniverfall confent of great men had caryed it as high as his majefties eare in fuch termes. Libera nos Domine! For your part of the character and min, as I am your lordfchipps vnworthy fervant, as thear was a tang in it, I may chance ferve to tell them, in min owin name, as I haue don in yours. Noli me tangere!

My Lord, I rejoyfe, as I fchould, aboue expression, to hear of my Lord Elect of Dumblane; his health and good proceedings, hic labor hoc opus eft. God enable me to proue a thankfull fervant to my Lord St Andrewes for his favor. I shall be glad to ferve in the meanest of his commandements hear; and to your lordschipp I have still communicated my felf, as to min own foul. Proba me!

I have not been fo weak as to flumble at your lordfchipps filence; if I had not known, vnder your hand, the caufe, I fchould have beleeved as much as I know. My hart ryfes at the news of a ryfeing cathedral at

Patrick Lindesay, minister at St Vigeans, was advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613.
 In 1633 he was translated to Glasgow.

[†] Andrew Lamb, minister at Burntisland, succeeded to this see in 1606, and retained it till 1619, when he was translated to Galloway.

[‡] Adam Belleuden, rector of Falkirk, who, upon the translation of Graham, Bishop of Dunkeld, to Orkney, in 1614, was preferred to the vacant bishoprick.

Roffe, in the words of the Pfalmift, "The glorious majeftie of the Lord our God be vpon it; profper the worke, O, profper it."

The Liturgy, ann. 2, regni Ed. 6, which with much adoe I gott, I leaft it with my curate at Brixton. He wold needs copy out what he could not find elfquher. I have fent for it by the caryer; when it cums to me it fehall be forthwith fent to your lordfehipp.

I am fo confident of what concerns me with your lordfehipp, foe farr as you have interest in it, that I schall never further examyn it, no not in a thoght, whether time wil work it pro or con; but vpon such a threatning as I had then, and a tryal of my patience since, about Patney (in such a manner as I have layed open to my Lord Dumblane in his letter), I should have held myself vnworthy of such freinds as both your lordschipps have schowed your selfes to me, if I had not, as a gratefull fervant, acknowledged the honor of your noble motions, by layeing my self in all duty and service, at the seet of our Holy Mother, the Church of Scotland, to be disposed by her as sche schall think sitt.

I directed a packett to my Lord of Galloway* vpon Chrystmasday. I hope his lordschipp has receaved it. I præsume thear wer letters in it which concerned my betters, to which I was only Tabellarius. My Lord, forgive me, and still blisse me by your letters and commandements.

Your Lordschipps (very) faythfull fervant and cofen,

John Carse.

London, 10 Jan. [1615?]

To the Right Reuerend Father in God, my much honored Lord, the Lord Bifchopp of Roffe.

William Couper, born 1566, and died 15th February 1619. A prelate of great worth and extensive learning. His works were printed at London, in folio, 1629.

[†] Communicated by Mr David Laing.

CXXXVIII.—SIR HUGH MONTGOMERY TO JOHN MURRAY. JANUARY 10, [1615?]

SIR,

Remembering me of our zifterdayis conferance conferning that lettir his maiestie refawit fre Sir James Hammiltowne, and of his maiesteis spich to zow abut the estatis of sic as had plantfit with me in the cyntre, bethinking me of them, I am not a lytill amaffit guhat thay fould mein; for that as conferneing the erillis decreit, I am perfuadit that theer is non gifin out as zeit, or otheirvayis I have refaivit mor wrong nor I am perfuadit fo nobill an erill, and fo respectif of his awin honnour and credeit, will dow. My refownis ar, First, For that thair vas a lettir of his lordfchip directit to the Lord Depute for the refolutiowne of the mane and materiall pynt, guharypon all our questiowne and debat flude, I had the karieing thaerof, and it was to be delyvirit to the Depute in both our prefentis, and we both war to have had the refolutiowne. This I did in the cownfall chalmour. I attendit and followit alwayis in Sir Jamesis present, and at the cownfall tabill, quhan, as the jugis war prefent quha war to refolf our dowt, knawing that, "veritas non quereret angwlos," quhilk Sir Jamis fo opposit with his accustomat scheiftis that for tow holl termis togethir, quhairby it cost me 300lb, I could hef no resolutiowne nor meitting; and now (in my abfant) to have ather preffit a refolutiowne, or to have gifin out a decreit wpon a refolutiowne grundeit vpon Sir Jamesis forgerie at his awin post, in my absant, and that flat contrarej to his lordschippis derectiowne and lettir to that effect, I newir being fo mych as callit to hear of it, I am perfuadit that no fuche decreit will profeid from his lordschip, or that ther is annay gifin out as zet at all.

And, laftly, If their had annay fuche refolutione com, gitt was I to haw bein aduertiffit theorof, that if I had had annay thing to fay for my felf, I micht haue had place to fay it, and theerefter his lordschip micht

have determeined with a full refolutiowne quhat to have downe. Bot in fo greit a matter, and vpon a refolutiowne refawit fre Sir Jamis of his awin haching, and nothing theerof fignefeit to me, I belef that it will be thocht a harde deilling, for that woon tways als good grwndis the erill micht hawe profideit in my fawouris, guharas I brocht his lordfchip the trew eftat of our caus, drawin wp in a most formmall and vnevitabill kace in law, refolfit and fet ondir thre of the best laweiris handis in Dwblin, to wit, Mr Boltowne, Sir Jhone Everot, and Mr William Tabart; the quhilk kace and refolutiowne will also hauld good heir amongist the best laweiris in England, bot I was fatiffeit that his lordfchip fould do nothing wpon annay privat refolutiowne; and quhatfoevir I have downe is by the erillis confent and liberte, zit extant ondir his hand; quharonto thaer is no conditiowne annexit to aduertis his lordfchip affor I dow it; or not to profeid without his lordfehip prewae, and all that I have downe I am inforflit to do as he is (that the dewill drayfis), for that Sir James hefing fo inderectly and onconfionabilly profideit in that buffines, both agenft his maiestie and me, that I could hef no sekuirate bot from his maiestie, and that not to fuch tym as the defait and wrong down to his maieftie was first knawin and redressit; and that I being his maiesteis suorne fervant, and thaereffir a fvorne covnfallour, at both wich tyms I was bwin, by them othis I tuke, to withftand and reveill quhatfomevir hurte I knew to be downe or profideing agenst his maiefteis perswn, posteritie, crown, or estait: And now that how sone I cam to the knawlag of Sir James profideingis, if I wald hef combeinit with him or confpayrit agenft his maiestie, and hef mad wse of that benefeit, that by the outvart face of the law, I might have takin by wertew of that lettir that I have ondir his maiesteis hande, for the passing of my estat, togethir with all that I bocht from Con, or hes richt vnto, than am I effuirit that my lord, that is not onle his maiesteis suirne cwnfallour tuays, bot hes also refawit so greit honnour and benefeit from his maiestie, wald have thocht me onvurthy of lyif, and wald have proklemit me for fuche a on; nathir wald his lordfchip evir hef allegit or brocht furth this decreit to hef feonddeit me with, fo as quhat I hef downe I have his lordfchips allowane, and that wpon fo good grundis, and eftir fuch a maneir profideit vnto, as that

I to my jugment presomis that his lordschip will nathir pris to blame me,

nor do me wrong thaerfor.

Now, Sir, for the fecownd part of his maiesties propositiowne, conferning the passing of my estat to me, it being now swnde wovd, that I wald happely wrong fuch tennantis as ar com to inhabit with me, and I hef fet richtis vnto, I am foure his maiestie fuld so consawe of me quho hes bein ewir funde willing and faithfull to ferf his maiestie, and that to the wttirmost that my perfowne, puer, or credet, could strich onto; nathir hes his maiestie evir harde of my onfathfull cairiag to annay man. All that I feik almost I hef it alrede ondir his maiesteis hand and fignat, gifin at Barar Castall, the 7 of August, and the 12 of his maiesteis renge (and if I fevt now annay forder it fall not be without good confideratiowne), quhairin my honnest meneing apeiris fuffitiantly, for that in that letter it is expressit, that for the straynthining of my tytill, and the settilling of thos gentilmen and otheir inhabitantis that I haw plantit thaer, his maiestie is pliffit that a grant or grantis fould be mad onto me, &c.; and this his maiesteis grant onto me, with a confiderationne expressit in my petitiowne, is onle to be wrayttin owir agen onto me in fuche form as, the defat down onto his maiestie being mad kleir, this lettir may be so frameit, that my eftat that fuld pas theropon fould be good in law. I feik not to pas this in the perfowne of my fone or fom othir, quharby to defrad annay manis eftat, bot in my awin, quha am bwnd to mak all thaer eftatis good. Now, the grant being in my awin perfowne, 5e knaw that altho I wald be afronttit, I can not go agenft my awin deid, quhilk is to mak them eftatis; quharfor, this miftrust that is had of me, with all reverenc I fpik it, will be thocht ane evill revarde for my ferweic; and especially, guhairas I am com heir to attend and confinne my felf onle to his maiesteis servic, guharas for a fifte or a threiskor of pundis, I could hef flayit at hom and had my lettir fo renewit, for that it was his maiefteis pleafour that I fould be mad fewr, as it micht hef bein mad good in law; quhar as, now, 1400lb. will not karie me hom agen, to my greit owirthraw, and the hinder of his maiesteis most nessifarej serveic intendit by me, if that his maiestie, out of his maiesteis princly and accustomat bontefull confideratiowne, help me not, that to this hour, notwithstanding of my gritt burdeingis, hes nather focht help, nor put his maiestie to a pennej chargis. And this far, Sir, I thocht good to wrayt onto 30w, rathir nor to fach 50w with long and oftin troubelfom spichis, intretting 30w to furder my dispache, that my petitiowne being harde and exammeneit, I may be put to that punt, that his maiestie, in his most royals fawour and bonte, fall think seit: And thus, intretting 30ur patienc, I am

Jour Lordfelips ewir for his awin meine,

HUGH MONTGOMERY.*

In haift, this 25 Janvarej.

To his honnorabill and his aprowed good freinde, Mr Johne Myrray, Gentilman of his Maicsteis Prewej Purce of Bedchalmour, gif theis.

· Sixth Laird of Braidstane. He was a descendant from the ancient stock of the Moutgomeries, and was born about the year 1560. He was educated at Glasgow, and thereafter went to France, after which he settled in Holland, and obtained a captain's commission in a Scots regiment under the Prince of Orange. Upon the accession of James VI. to the crown of England, he was taken into favour, and obtained a grant from Con O'Neale, Lord of the Claneboyes, in the following manner: - This Irish chieftain, indulging with his friends and followers at Castlereagh, in a "grand debauch," as Lodge terms it (vol. i. p. 358, edit. 1754), speedily got rid of all the wine; and being desirous of procuring more, they sent their servants to Belfast for a fresh supply, when they contrived to quarrel with the garrison there, and returned to their masters after receiving a tolerably severe drubbing, and without any wine. Con, exasperated, not so much at the discomfiture of his men, as at their not procuring wine, reproached them bitterly, and as their number doubled that of their antagonists, swore "by his father's and all his noble ancestors' souls," none should serve him or his friends if they went not back and revenged the affront put upon him and them by those "few Boddagh Sassenagh soldiers," as he termed them. They accordingly vowed to execute their revenge; and proceeding to Belfast, assaulted the garrison, and killed one of the soldiers; but were at length beaten off and pursued, several of their number being killed and wounded. For this outrage Con and his adherents were found guilty, by a Committee of Enquiry, of levying war against the crown, and he was committed to prison. This happened a few months before the death of Queen Elizabeth.

Montgomery thought be could turn O'Neale's imprisonment to advantage, and resolved on a rescue. This he successfully accomplished; and contrived to get Con on board a trading vessel, in which he arrived with him safely at Largs, from whence he conducted him to Braidstane, where he was treated with great kindness. He then told his visitor, if he would divide his estate with him, that he would procure the king's pardon, who by this time had succeeded to the crown of England. Poor Con had no alternative. It was a sad thiog to lose half his lands, but sadder still to lose his life; so, with bitter curses upon himself for his drunken frolic, he complied with the demand; and Montgomery and his victim proceeded to London, where

CXXXIX.—NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS OF PRIVY COUNCIL. JANUARY 24, 1615.

THAT letter fend downe frome his maiestie, with the petition enclosed therein anent the bushes fisheing, wes this day prefented and geven in to the counfall; which beeng oppened and redde in there audience, thay do werrye well allow of the enterpryfe, and fo far as in them lyes, will hold hand to encourage the enterpryfares and undertakares to profequute and follow oute that trade. But becaus the question anent the teynd, which is the cheefe poynte whereon the enterpryfares doeth now ftand, can not be fetled bot in prefence of the pairtyes haveing enteresse, therefore the bishope of Sanctandrois, Abirdeine, and Orknay, the Chalmerlane and customares of Orknay, the ministeres of Pittenweyne, Anstruther, and Carraill, who ar the speciall pairties who clames enteres to this teynd, ar ordained to be warned to compeere befoir the counfall, vpoun the xiiijda day of Februarij nixt, to answere to this mater, and to see suche good courfe taken therein, as shalbe thoght expedyent; at which tyme the . counfall will omitt no good duetve wherby this trade may be forthered and advanced.

The difference betweene the Lord of Scone and Andro Hendersone, beeng submitted in presence of the counsall to the Bishopes of Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Lardes of Pitcur and Ballmanno, and the Goodeman

a pardon was obtained; but the division was not ratified in the manner Montgomery expected; for Sir James Fullerton, a needy countier, contrived, no doubt for a proper consideration, to introduce Mr James Hamilton (Viscount Clandeboye, 1622) as a third party to the contract, and obtained the king's sanction to this arrangement, some particulars as to which, and as to the disputes with Hamilton, will be found in the Abbotsford Miscellany.

Notwithstanding this tripartite division, the estate acquired by Montgomery was sufficiently extensive; and he proceeded to "plant" it with English and Scotish Protestants. He was made a free denizen of Ireland in 1605, in which year he was knighted. On 3d May 1622 he was created Viscount Montgomery of the Great Ardes, and died at Newtoun-house, on the 25th of May 1636. From him the Montgomeries, Earls of Mount-Alexander (now extinct in the male line), were descended. Notwithstanding this curtailment of his estates, Con O'Neale is said to have ever lived in strict friendship with Montgomery, and to have been deeply affected by his death.

of Balgowne, and they haveing had dyuerfe tryeftes and meetinges vpon that fubmission, thay sufferred the same in end to deferte, without pronynceing of any decreite or fentence therein; whereof enformation beeng made to the counfall, and thay being defyreous to vnderstand vpon whose default and occasion the submission deserted, thay caused charge both the pairtyes and arbitouris to compeere before thame for that effect this prefent day: And thay compeering, and at length hard, it wes funden by reporte of the commonares, that after dew examination of all accomptes betweene the pairtyes, that Andro Hendersone wes restan great sowmes of money to the fade lord, which he wes not hable to pay, and whiche the lord wes verrie on willing to difcharge and quyte: And the commonares feareing Henderfones exclamationes and outcryes, yf thay decerned him to pay those reftes, and beeng loath to offend the Lord of Scone, by decerning him to guyte the fame, thay therefor fufferred the fubmission to defert. The counfall haveing at length hard thame heerevoon, and beeng loath that thir jares should still continew betweene the pairtyes, and that his maiestie should be of new importuned by Andro Hendersone, or his wyff, thay therefor delt with the faid lord and Andro, that thay wold fubmitt thame felues of new to the counfall, according to the tennour of the first submission. The Lord of Scone made deficultye to submitt according to the first submission, vales the pensioun of ve merkes, which Hendersone hes out of the lordshipe of Scone, wer lykwyse submitted, to the effect that thereby all occasion of question betweene thame heirafter might be removed, and that he might have no forder doing nor medling with him. This beeng imparted to Andro, he freely eveelded to fubmitt his penfion in lyk maner; wherevpon the counfall, without ony forder delay, gave furth there decrete and fentence betweene thame, decerning ather of thame to quyte and discharge otheres of all comptes, restes, rekinninges, and fowmes of money, that ather of thame can lay to the charge of otheres, for whatfomevir caus or occasion bygane, preceeding the date thereof; excepting allwayes the fowme of two thousand merkes, as a pairte of that fowme which wes funden by the first commonares to be restan by the sade Andro; which sowme of two thousand merkes the counfall hes thoght meete to hald aboue the faid Androes head, as ane awband to keepe him in quyetnes and ordour, and to reftreane his diftempered and vnreulie fpeatches: And thay have ordained the faide lord onnowyfe to crave payment of the fade fowme, vnles the faid Andro, by his mifbehaviour, give iuft caus to the faid lord to crave the fame (the mifbehaviour beeng alwyfe first tryed, and declaratour geven therevpon by the counfall): And whereas in the accomptes made by the fade Andro of his intromiffion with the fade lordes leveing, he hes geven vp findric reftes whereof he alleadges he gatt no payment, the counfall hes ordained him to warrand thir reftes frome his owne deede allanerlye. They have also decerned the faid Andro to renunce and discharge his penfion of ve merkes, which he hes oute of the abbay of Scone, in favoures of the fade lord, for the which they have decerned the fade lord to mak payment to the faide Andro, in fatiffaction of his fade penfion, both for bygaines and in all tyme cuming, of the fowme of two thousand merkes, within eight dayes after Whitfunday nixt; with this prouifo, yf he mak payment of the fowme of ane thousand pundes, preceiflie at the terme of Witfonday, that he shalbe free of the fowme of two thowsand merkes.

Andro Hendersone, by his petition geven in to the counsall, complained havelie of his confyneing, and of the harme and prejudice which he fusteenes thoroughe that occasion; and his defyre wes to be fred and releved. Becaus the derrection for his confyneing proceedit from his maiestie, the counsall wold do no thing without his maiesties allowance.

CXL.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 28, 1615.

RICHT HONORABILL COUSING,

I have na farder occasion to write to giow at the prefent, bot to accumpanie this berar, with quhais earand heir, I doubt nocht bot gie ar acquent; like as he will shiaw to giow all that guid freinds has

done heir. I doubt nocht bot my Lord Secretair writes to 5iow herewith, like as I haue alfo writtin to my Lord Fentoun, and willed him fhiaw my lettir to his facred maieftie; and gif he be abfent frome Court, I haue defired him to fend it to 5iow, to be on his name shiawin to his maiestie, and reteired agane. His maiestie, seing baith quhat the secretair writes to 5iow, and quhat I write to Lord Fentoun, I esteeme, sall sufficientlie tak vp, quhow far Mr Williame Murray is sailed too. It can nocht be bot a regrait to honest men, that debosched drunkin babillis sould presume, sa imprudentlie, at sa wyse and iuste a prencis hand, to misreport honest and wordie men, abusing his sauour, more to thair estait, nor to thair mercit or ony worth; bot man be borne with, sence eiuer sa has bein, suim onwordie in onye best estait or gang off men, a Judas amangs Chrystis twels apostlis. Sua, ending this, wissis siow allwayis all weill,

Ziour louing coufing to ferue ziow,

Dunfermeline.

Frome Edinburgh, 28 Janr. 1615.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued Cofen, Mr Murraye, in his facred Maiefteis Bedchalmer.

CXLI.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY. FEBRUARY 1, [1615?]

RICHT HONORABILL AND WORTHY CUSSINGE,

My beft luffe rememberit. I haiff refaiffid 5 our letter the 23 of this monthe, quhilk gifis me greit contentment, bothe concerning my awin biffines and 5 ouris; and as for the biffchope of Santtandrofe behewioure towardis 5 ow, it is cleirly knawin bothe to the kirk of Scotland and to many more, to his greit difadwantage and diflyking of all that heiris the fame; for the hale biffchopis is lyk to go mad at him: for, blift be God, Sir, gif 5e hard the honourabile report the kirk reportis of 5 ow, 5e

wald think zowr trewell weill bestowid, ze haif taken for thame, quhilk maid my hart glaid to heir the fame. Sir, we heir that 3e ar a lytile in wytt, and I doubt nocht bot 3e fie the fame wtter in fum muffour. my cunffell to zow is for Godis caufe to be circumfpeck, and cald, and wyfe, and let nocht zowr paffioun ower rewle zow, bot wait zowr tyme, and feik God, and I find 30w God to borrowis, they that feikis 30wr difcredit, they fall find thair awin lykweyis. Sir, 3e fall wnderftand Santtandrofe hes bein werie feik, and no man lippinis he fall leif.* Sir, I howpe 3e will pardoune me for my cunffell to 30w, for I proteft to God, it cumes frome ane faithfule hart, that luffis 30w trewlie as himfelf. Ferder, Sir, 3e fall wnderstand that the Erle of Orkney conwick of tressone, and is to fuffer the thrid of this inftant.† Alfo, Sir, 3e fall understand, that I wflid all diligence to haif gottin my declaratore of redemptioun throw aganft the air of Carco, conforme to ane preceis ordore, wflid at my awin inftance, for redeiming the lordfchipe of Sanguhar out of Carcois handis; and the Lordis of the Seffioun hes decernit my ordour nule, and hes cassin my ordour, for nocht fulfilling the haill heidis contained in the rewerfloun and innowat contrak, fua, that the lordis hes pute me to ane new ordour of redemptioun again: fua, Sir, quhill my ordour of redemptioun be anewe wffid and gottin throw, and decreit of the lordis thair wpoun, the advocat findis that I can nocht mak his maiestie ane reicht of the fhireffchipe, nor he will nocht anfuer for the fame to be walid, as his lordfchipe will perticulerlie wryt to 30w to the fame effeck, and gif his lordfchipes awin refonis for the fame to be fchawin to his maiestie be 50w, Sir: and tile me Lord Advocatis letter of informatioun cum to 50w, Sir, ze fall schawe nothing of the bissines to his maiestie; alweyis, Sir, the delev guhen his maieftie knawis the trewthe of the biffines, I am perfuadit his maieftie will be pleffid with the fame. Alweyis I think gud to aquent 30w, Sir, that the calling of this ordour of myne hes pute me in ane greit fecurittie of my estait; for the casting of my order of redemptioun will tak awey the lait Lord Sanguharis ordour of redemptioun that

^{*} George Gladstanes—" The Archbishop of Santandrois hes passed ane dangerous fit of apoplexie. It is supposed that ane new assault may he more difficil to put off." Lord Binning to John Murray—Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 194.

[†] According to Calderwood, he suffered at the market cross of Edinburgh, February 6, 1615.

the fame will niwer conwalefe agane; for the lait Lord Sanguharis ordour lies all the faltis that my ordour is eastin for, and many mor faltis, fua, that the lordis can niwer cum aganst thair awin decreit all in ane wote in foro contradictorio contentiouslie disputtit; fua, Sir, that ordour that the lordes hes cassin to me, they can niwer sustein to my adwerferie, sua, that all the diffadwantage that I haif, I am put to ane new ordour of redemptioun. Lykweyis, Sir, 3e fall wnderstand forder, that I haif put my Lord Sanguharis fone natrall to the horne for nocht obeying his maiesteis decreit, and his maiestie promeift to me gif he geid to the horne I fowld haif his lyfrent for this caufe, quhilk caufe is for diffobeying his maiesteis decreit. Sir, the thresforer deput wald glaidlie gif me the same, but his lordfchip wald haif his maiesteis letter for his warrand; fua, Sir, ze man get his maiesteis letter for this effeck, and the same man be done fecretlie, that Roxbruche get nocht wit of the fame, for gif he get wit, he will do all lyis in his power to fley the fame; for, Sir, fchaw his maiestie this is bot for strenthining of his maiesteis decreit and sentence.*

Sir, I wes on Orkneyis afyfe myfelf. Sir, fehawe his maieftie that, be Godis grace, I fall be cairfule to difcharge any ferwice lyis in my power faithfullie to his maiefteis contentment, for I knawe his maiefteis and hes ewer bein ane juft and equitabile prince, and I am his maiefteis ferwand more nor ordinerrie fubiectis, and fall give prufe of the fame, gif God fpair my lyfe. Frome Edinburgh, the first of Feberwerrie.

Jowris effectionat and luffing Cuffing to ferwe 30w,

SANQUHAR.

Sir, wryt to me with the first occatioun, for I lange till I heir frome 30w.

To the Richt Honourabill and his worthie gud freind Johne Murrey of Lochemeben, on of his Maiefteis Bedchamber, this to be givin.

See the King's award in the Abbotsford Miscellany. Robert, Baron, and (1616) Earl of Roxburghe, was the guardian of the late Lord Sanquhar's "sone natral," and would, no doubt, have opposed the proposed gift by the King.

CXLII.—SIR JOHN COCKBURN OF ORMISTON TO KING JAMES VI. FEBRUARY 3, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

The deceiffed Lord Sinclare* marying one of my dochters, and by her haveing iffue of tuo fones, of whome the elder, bye his fathers death, being now your maieftyes waird, I, as being the grandfather, can not, in dewtie, omitt to be a humble fuiter, that the gift of his waird and marvage (giving alwayes your majeftyes dew confideratioun thairfoir) may be difponit vnto those whome nature doth enforce, and the generall opinion of everie man will prefume to carye the greatest to the pure orphanes weilfare. As for any respect to be had to my self heirin, I do only plead out of grace, at the bar of your majefties gratious accustomed bountye, nawayes challenging any merite (whilk in a fubject may be held for prefumptioun); and yit with protestatioun of pardoun, avowing that never any of my rank have furpaffed me in dewtyfull affectioun to ferue your majestie, according to my talent. So, if your majestie wold be pleafed to testifie to the world, bye yeilding vnto this my humble suite, that I am still in your majesties gratious fauour (sence it hath bein cuftomeable to those in publick placeis, and employed in daylie fervice, to be euer respected in this kynd), no doubt, as it wold gif vnto my graye haires (which are now verye neir to the grave) muche comforte in finding the vnchangeable contynuance of my most gratious foveranes affectioun; fo wold it also move and encourage vthers to indevore thamefelues by all fervice, on their pairt, to acquyre ane impression in thair princes heartis of thair dewtyfull caryage, and becum fo affured, as when anie

^{*} Patrick sixth Lord Sinclair. By Margaret Cockburn he had John his successor, and Henry, a Colonel in the army, who died at Dysart, 5th February 1670. His only daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy.

perticuler which micht concerne thame fould occure, that it fould not pas vnregairded. As for the eftate of the levyng, the hous hathe bein olde, honourable, and vntainted; bot the rent and revenues thairof verie fmall, and the fame at this prefent alluterlie exhaustit by occasioun of three furviving widowes haifing all three feuerall conjunct fyes furth thairof, fo as thair is not fo muche left of the rent as will afford to the pure orphane ane monthes intertenyment. Perhaps fome of conceat to mak benefite thairby may be fuitters heirof, bot I falbe loathe, for the whole worthe of it, to be found within compas of vntreuth; indeid, the maryage may be fome what accomptit of, bot when the boy at this prefent exceidis not the fourt veir of his age, God knoweth how unprofitable those preventiounes may prove. Alwayes humblie intreiting your majeftyes pardoun for this my boldnes and prefumptioun, and whollve relying vpoun your most gratyws fauour, which hes neuer yit bein wanting to any weill deferving fervant, I humblie kis your facred hands, and with my prayer for the contynuance of your majeftyes most hapye, long, and prosperous regne, I rest

Your Maiesties most dewtifull and faithfull fubject and feruitour,

Jo. Cockburne, Ormistoun.*

Edinburght, the 3 February 1615.

To my most gratious and dread Souerayne, the Kings most excellent Maiestie.

[•] Son of John Cockburn of Ormistonn, whom he succeeded in 1583. On the 4th of July 1588 he was made, upon the resignation of Lord Boyd, an Extraordinary Lord of Session. He was knighted, and appointed Justice Clerk on the death of Sir James Bellenden in 1591, and admitted an Ordinary Lord on the 15th Fehruary 1593. He died in June 1623.

CXLIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY. FEBRUARY 24, 1615.

RICHT HONOURABILL COUSING,

All that I have to write to ziow is, that wee have na mater off moment to write off frome this, nor be apeirance wee will have na fubilect off advertisment till the prisonaris frome IIa be heir, to be tried and examinat. We ar fallin upon suim discourie off suim treacherie in mater off coine: suim villains has used to gilt suim filuer riellis, baith doubill and singill, and has geiuin thame out for Spanish pistolettis, doubill or singill. Suim of thame we haif in handis, and, as I hoipe, wee ar on the way off the triell of that abuise; albeit, wee have nocht zitt attained to the full knawledge of thair knawishe treadde, zie will heir parhappis mair off this after. The storme continewis still heir, and I think sua thair to, for wee gett na worde frome thence. Sua, ending this, wissis ziow all contentement.

Zour louing Coufing to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Febr. 1615.

The Archbifchoppe St Androis apeirs fuim better in his health, and 5it is thocht fall nocht putt off this feiknes in haill. Glafgow* is gone frome this to fee the Jefuift Ogiluie refaue law.

To the Right Honourabill my weilbeloued Coufing, Johne Murray, in his facred Maiesties Bedchalmer.

[·] Spottiswood, who succeeded Gladstanes as Archbishop of St Andrews.

CXLIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY. [March 1615?]

I can fay na mair to ziow, bot I will be glaid at my hairt to haue anis ane guid end in this befines, and to be bound to nane, thairfore, onder his facred maiestie, bot to ziow, quhilk fall neiuer be forgottin for me; albeit my powar be bot fmall, my guid will and acknawledgement in deute fall be greate and continuall. Sence now, be this refignatioun, all is putt in his maiesties hand and powar, and he may doe greate hnrt and displeasour to my nepuieu, quhilk I na wayis can suspect, zit fearing eiuill counfall or inftigatioun micht moue his maiestie to derogate onye point to his honour, I wald wife ziow, if zie parfaue onye fie thing or motioun in his heighnes minde, then for ziour awin entres deale with his maiestie, and shiaw to his heighnes, if he sa did, he wold doe ziow greatar wrang nor to onye, to cast a galant gioung man fa far abak, ondir ziour mediatioun, quhairby he thocht to haue had his fatling and quietnes in his promotioun. Wifs his maiestie and shiaw to him, it will be mair convenient, or he doe giow that wrang, to latt all fland as before: randir him his refignatioun and discharge, and destroy or cancell the writes figned, if his maiestie can na wayis confent to his preferrement. His heighnes may have wayis anew to hald him abak mair convenient nor this, or to bring 3iow in ony blame for fic a mater. This ground I thocht guid to fignifie to ziow to hald ziow be, if zie find fic intentioun or motionn; for wee fould forfee fa far as wee may, all possibilities habill to hurte us, albeit thay be neiuer fa onliklie. If zie can gett at the refaitt off this, and fa fon as his maieftie fall fee the refignatioun, quhilk is maift fufficient, ane command to James Douglas to fend hither in diligence

the lettirs figned, quhairoff <code>jie</code> fend me the note, all is weill; and if <code>jie</code> can gett this done quicklie, I wald nocht think expedient <code>jie</code> maid langer ftay on ceremoniall matters and circumftances. The Lord Somerfettis fubfcription is nocht neceffair, nor <code>jie</code> neid nocht troubill him with this. If it be nocht his maiefties pleafour and directioun, I think he will nocht be opposite, for he has promist fauour and guid will; bot I desire no ftay nor delay, and he has much adoe.*

Privat for ziour felf.

CXLV.—LORD GORDON AND JAMES MOWAT TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY [1615?]

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Efter ane inhibitioun was feruit agaynft M'Kintoshe his teynds, at my Lord Gordoun his instance, and he was requyrit to gife teynding, as ordour of laue prouyds, my Lord Gordoun fend on of his ferwands, with tuo notars and thrie witness, to the lands of Collodin, perteyning to the faid M'Kintoshe, and thair be wertene of a decreit obteynid be my lord, befoir the Lords of Session, conteynand a leuen yeirs spulze of the teynds of the faids lands, to haife poyndit for the by-run spulzeis; but M'Kintoshe send and haid lying await about the number of aught or ten scoir men, armit with guns, pistolats, bous, suords, and axis. All of them bend thair bous and guns, and violentlie deforsit and boistit to haif kilt

This is an unsigned confidential letter from Lord Dunfermline apparently to John Murray. It relates
to the pretensions of his Lordship's nephew to the earldom of Eglinton, which were ultimately recognized
by the King. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 199.

the faids feruande and witness, gife they fuld fett thair foot woon ther ground, and manifastlye mifregairdit the lords decreit, and reallit out that they did nocht cair for any decreit, or letters that culd cum from your maieftie. This thay did, the aught day of September, and tuentve-tua day of September laft, in moir ufurping maneir nor can be schouin vour maiestie. M'Kiutoshe did this, moir to haife the cuntrey and your maiefteis peace broikin, nor for any wther respeck, as may be evidentlie knowin, be reflene my Lord Gordoun wfit means to apoynt feuein feuerall tryftis fence vour maiestee was in Scotland, for agreing that mater, and fubmiffiouns war pend and fubferyuit be aither of pairteis and freinds, but M'Kintoshe not being willing the mater suld pack wp freindlie, fand means to break euerye on of the meittings on day or tuo befoir thay fuld haife mett, and hes drauin all the broikin heighland men to him, feik as Robert Abrach, on of the Clangrigor, with uthers of his accomplecees that ar your maieftees rebells to be his fuldeours, and keips them in his houfs of Cullodin, for the fayme effeck, and gifs it out that the most pairt of the heighland men in Scotland will tak his pairt, and will be glaid to find any occation of a break, becaus they fay they haife nocht threuen fence your maiestee maid the cuntrey fo peaceable. Heirfoir, my lord humblie entreats your maiestie wreit to the cunfall of Scotland to punishe M'Kintoshe and his complexees for his rebellion and mifregairding your maieftees laws, and that M'Kintoshe may be maid to prefent thees rebells quhom he keips as fuldeours, that thay may be takin ordour with, for the better observing your maiestees peace, and preuenting of gryter inconvenientefe.

The nixt cunfall day in Scotland is wpon Wednifday, the tuentye-on of this month.

Indorfed:

Lord Gordoun and James Mowats Information to His Majestie.

 $^{^{\}bullet}$ This letter, which has no date, is placed by Sir James Balfour amongst those of the year 1615, although it is probably of a somewhat later date.

CXLVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI. OCTOBER 11, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

As it wes my no fmall greiff, when I onderstoude of the finister and vrongous mifreporte of me, conferning my professioun in religioun (the foreaderis of these calumnies upone ther conceaved advantage of the far-diffance of place, prefuming that the partie whome they intend to vronge falbe condemned before hearing), fo it is vnto me no fmall conforte to be the fubiect of fo gratious a foueraigne, with whome no detractioun hath place, nor any evir be him convict vnheard; bot ftill referving the one ear to the pairtie accufed, whereof I have found the particular prowife in this calumny laitly vttered againes me be Mr Robert Wilkie, in that your maiestie wes pleased nott to trust what ves vttered vntill tryall wes taiken therof be my Lord Santandros; and laiteft, your maieftie did direct Sir Robert Douglas to bring your heines fertentie heirin, yho, no dout, befor this tyme hes certified your maiestie how far I haue bene vronged in that buffynes, where the pretendit zeale whereof fome makes professioun, causs them forgett both honestie and discretioun. Alwayes it may veill content me to indure that which too often and moft jufflie hes moved my gratious maifter and foueranes owen patience. I doe not intend to be in the reverence of any of these people, if they will deliuer no more then treuth, and if your maiestie wald be pleased to direct my Lords St Androis and Glafgow to provyid many of our kirkes heir vith fik as wald not prefs to fupplie there vant of good doctrine and paynes, and there private inftructioun, with a pretendit outward fchaw and pretence of devoted zeale, no doubt it wald try a great meanes to ftrethen them who ar meanly groundit, and to relevue many vho daylie fall away. It is now four yeares fince your maieftie had a letter of my hand-vritt, which may give full affurance of my professioun. Intreatting,

therfor, humble your maieftie to reft confident, notwithftanding of whatevir falbe informed to the contrarie, vntill I fall refuifs the tuichftone of all dew tryall, in geuing full fatiffactione to the most worthie fatheries of the church, and fecunditt by these who serve cuire vnder them, as they themselfes doe most vorthely discharge there owen roumes, and gives reasone of your maiesties most just prais, in making so good choice. And praying the Almichtie God long to continow your maiesties long and most happie gratious gouernment ower ws, I kis your facred hand, and restis.

Your Maiesties most dewtifull subject and feruitour,

ANGUS.*

Douglas, the 10 of October 1615.

To my most gratious and dreid Soueraigne, the Kingis most excellent Majestie.

CXLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.
November 24, 1615.

RICHT HONOURABILL AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I thank jiow maift hartlie for jiour guid remembrance be jiour lettir, quhilk I refaued fra James Bailjie. As to that jiour lettir bearis, je hoiped to fee me thair shiortlie, treulie at the refaitt I marueled thair-

[•] William, eleventh Earl of Aogus. He succeeded his father (many of whose letters occur in the early part of this volume) in 1611—was created Marquis of Douglas, 18th June 1633, and died in the 71st year of his age, at Douglas Castle, 19th February 1660. He left the religion of his father, and became a Protestant.

off; for albeit the berar, James Bailzie, fhiew to me, alfo, he was informed he wald meit me on my iornay be the way, at that tyme I knew off na apeirance nor rafoun thairfore; bot fenfyne, within this four dayis, my Lord Fentoun has fignified to me be his lettir, it is maiefties gracious pleafour, at the queenis maiefties defire, that I fould cuim up fa fone as I may conuenientlie. For this prefent, I can nocht enterprife that iornay, for my bedfallow is on the point to be broght to bed within werie fiew dayis, and before fhoe can be at that eftaitt that I may weill leine hir, will be the dead off the zieir, maift difficill and hard to onye man to trauell, and I am now na chikkin, drawing to three fcore, was neiuer werye ruide nor ftrong, albeit, nather too delicat nor fparing off my felf. Alwayes fa fone as I can find I may weill tak toe to fic a voyage, I fall, be Goddes grace, mak ziow forefein off my intentioun, and off my dyett; for I will alwayis be bath hamelie with ziow, and trubilfuim to ziow in all my adois.

All our estaits heir is (praifed be God) sa quiett as can furnish us na subject off occurrence to write off to our freindis. God hald all lang sua, and preserve our maist gracious sourceane and maister, quhome fra (vndir God) proceidis all this our calmnes, frome his wyse, equitabill, and instituted directions and ordonancis. Sua, wissing ziow also all happines, I reste for either

Jour louing Coufing always at command.

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Nouember 1615.

I defire this may remembir baith my bedfallowis and my maift hartlye kindnes to ziour good halfmarrow. We wifs hir a good and blith deliuerie off hir burding to hir contentement and wifs, and to ziowris. Jie may

shiaw hir that hir speciall guid freind, my dochter, my Ladye Eglintoun, has bein in parell off hir lyss, and is zit, albeit, now (praised be God) fuim thing softer; for shoe was fallin in a haitt feiuir tua dayis, before shoe was brocht to bed, and through that seiknes preueined hir tyme ten or twelf dayis: has now bein this 15 dayis in continuall vehement seuir, butt rest, and oft reuing; this tua last nights at sum ease and quietnes, zit werie seike and weake.

To the Right Honourable my weilbeloued Coufen, Jhone Morraye, in his facred Maiefteis Bedchalmer.

CXLVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR AND REMANENT LORDS
OF THE COLLEGE OF JUSTICE.

DECEMBER 3, 1615.

JAMES R.

Right trufty and welbeloued cofen and counfellour, trufty and welbeloued counfelloures, wee greet yow well. Whereas wee were pleafed this laft fummer that Commissioners should be appoynted for furueying of all the coilheuches within oure kingdome of Scotland, to the effect that before wee would graunt a licence for carrying of coilles to any forraine nation, it might be feriously considdered whither the coilheuches of that kingdome might subsist and be mantained by their ordinarie sale in surnishing the countrey about the places where they are; togidder with the benefite arrysing by the nomber of those coilles which are brought from thence to this oure kingdome; or if there were a necessitie for thair better mantainance, that a priniledge should be graunted for transporting them to other nationes, wee vnderstand that a survey wes made for this effect, but for the present have not befyde we your testimonie thereupoun.

Therefore oure pleafour is, that yow certifie ws what wes found by the Commission forefaid, with your judgement thereanent, that therefter (haueing the reguard that is due to the goode of that oure kingdome) wee may refolue what is expedient for ws to be done; fo, expecting your answeir, wee bid yow hartely farewell. Frome oure Court at Newmercat, the 3 of December 1615.

To oure right trufty and welbeloued Cofen and Counfellour, the Earle of Dumfermiling, oure Chancellour of Scotland: to our truftie and welbeloved Counfellouris, the remnant Lords of oure Colledge of Juftice of the faid kingdome.

CXLIX.—LORD CRANSTOUN TO JOHN MURRAY. DECEMBER 9, 1615.

RYCHT HONORABILL,

Within this fourtnycht I haue wryttine tuo feuerall letters to 50w, quhilk I hoip be cumit to 50ur handis: the one be my nephew, the fchereife of Tivotdaill, the vthair be my fervant Niniane Armftrange. Quhat I wrett in thefs letters, I hoip it will be neidles to repeit in this; onlej this berer beinge dyfpofit to repair to court, I make bolde to remimber 50w in all dewtej. I knaw the careierr will informe 50w of the eftait that 50ur fifter is in for the prefent,* and quhat myghttej enemej hir hufband and fcho hes opynglej profeffit to their rueine. Itt is in 50ur handis to help for the prefent, and quhat ye will commande me to do to thair furder, affuire 50wrfelf I fall leiue nothinge vndoun that lyis in my

^{*} Jean Murray, who married John Maxwell of Kirkewine. Their son James was created by Charles I. Earl of Dirleton, Lord Elbottle in 1646. As the patent limited the earldom and barony to heirs-male of the body, the titles became extinct upon the demise of the earl, who left only two daughters, Ladies Elizabeth and Diana.

power. This muche I dyffyre 30w to make account of, and fo takis my leiue, and reftis

Zowris ever affurit to doo zow ferveice,

W. CRANSTOUNE.*

Too the Richt Honourabill my verej kynd freinde, Mr Johnne Murrey, of his Maiesties royell Bedchalmer.

CL.—LORD SCOTT OF BUCCLEUCH TO [JOHN MURRAY?].

December 9, 1615.

SIR,

I do vrett to you now in a fubjett quhairin I did nott attend to haue had ony occasione, if them quhome it touches had had ony confideratione off thair awin particular credit, lett be ony obligatione I micht justly chaulengett for mony raisons. Robin Ellott† is on hys journay touards you for a particular quiche I thynk quhen you vnderstand the verite, you vill nott approve hys fasions. You remember for your respect I gave hym the faueur that mony having the raisons I had against hym, and thos advantages off revanche, vood a extenditt them more rigourously nor I did; yett, quhatt did passe, I estimett vell employtt for your regard. Att thatt tyme I passett hym hys infestement off lands, quhairin I hope he did signify to you he vass fatissisett fully by hys letter, and you also did ratify by a letter to myself of your pairt: he immediatly, efter my signing of hys securitie, gois and falsiss in the rycht I gauve hym, and inserts others lands in hys charter, quiche most evidently I vill

William Cranstoun, son of John Cranstoun of Moriestoun. He married Sarah, the heiress of Cranstoun
 —was captain of the guard to James V1., who knighted him, and thereafter elevated him to the peerage, 17th
 November 1609. He died in June 1627.

[†] Elliot subsequently attempted to assassinate Lord Buccleuch. See Melros Papers, vol. ii, p. 378.

prove, bothe by ocular infpectione, ass also by other circonstances I vill ichow att the triall thairof, vafs nott given hym by me : efter thys maner, he causis a vryter raise vp some wordes and put in others, as thai haue a trik to dow heir, them quho hefs no honefty to observe.* Judge you if thatt man fould a carriett hymfelf to me in thatt forte. I knewe the humour off the man better nor you did; and you most remember I told you tharr vafs no honefty to be attenditt of hym. If you underftud hys particular cariage to them you fauour hym for, I am perfuaditt you vood nott do for hym in indeferant occasiones, lett be in thos quhair he micht paraventure haue fome raifone. Beliue this informatione vill prove just to hys discreditt; and I am affeurett no man off honour bott vill reput hym naucht. It is not only difcreditt to hym, bot indangeris hys lyf to falfify ane infeftement. I thocht expedient to acquent you with it, to the end you may affeure you off my just deling, and thatt you kno hys ingratitudes. I hope you vill thynk I do no thyng in it bott quhatt apertines to ane man off honour to do, quhen he finds hymfelf fo ingratly and difhoneftly vfett. So, remetting all to your confideration, I reft ever hym guhome you have most absolut pouer to command,

Bukcleughe.†

Edinburghe, 9 December 1615.

I vifs I had occasione to fye you, quharby I micht informe more particularly off hys carriage to me.

· Such practices as these were then common enough.

† Then Lord Scott of Buccleuch. He was not elevated to the earldom until 1619. His Lordship had the command of a regiment in the service of the States of Holland, and served with much reputation against the Spaniards. He was thus addressed by Arthur Johnston:—

Arva dedit Scoto Rex Scotus, Belga dat aurum Estque triumphatus serta daturus Iber.

He died at Loudon, on the 21st of November 1633, and his body was put on board a vessel for Leith, which arrived after a most tempestuous voyage, and after being nearly cast away on the coast of Norway. The curpse was carried to Branxholm, and his Lordship interred there. An account of the funeral ceremony occurs in "The Genealogical and Historical Tracts of Sir James Balfour," printed at Edinburgh, 1837, from the Balfour MSS. 12mo.

CLI.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY. DECEMBER 21, [1615?]

SIR.

There is nothing that I can wryite from henfe bot it is fo fpedelye advertised by these who haif the chairge, that I holde it a neidlefs poynte in me to trouble any with renewing of flate advertifmentis. Thir pairtes affordes not nather muche nor greit mater. So long as it pleifes God of his infinite mercye to prolonge our maifteris gratious governament over ws, there is nothing to be expected heir bot all dewtifull obedience; and albeit now and then there may fall out fome incidentis, fo is there no bodye of nevir fo gode conflitutioun, bot will haif a catharre, or fome other diftemperature. Alwayes our Iyles fervice is finished, and our lieutennant, the Erle of Argyile, returned visternight, and wilbe with the counfell this day. By many it is thought, that if goode will did fecunde the dewtye whiche they ar bounde to do, thir frequent iyland employmentis wald not occurre fo often. I wrotte to yow in my former lettres that account being takin what this Iyla hathe ftoode his maiefties cofferis into thir tuo voyages, and specially in the accomptes of admiralitye there. I doubt if the rent of our whole Iyles will recompense it in ten yeir. Sen it is now quyted, it is fitting the purchefferis of the new right ather fecuire it heirefter, and difburdeyne his maiefties cofferis of furder chairge, or then furrender it to his maiestie; for when thir employmentis ar fo proffitable in prefent pay, and a preparatioun for making fuite at courte for fervice done, how easie a mater it is to haif fome of these vnhallowed people, with that vnchristiane language, readye to furneis fresh wark for the tinker, and the mater so caryed as that it is impossible to deprehend the plotte. But leiving this vntill the leutennant

mak a relatioun of his fervice, we haif had in the boundis of Cathnes, fome barne vairdes brunte to the Lord Forbes, a barbarous actioun, and pernicious in fo fkairfe a year. Alwayes, howevir, baife lownes be actouris, it is muche to be feared that without fetting on of greiter, thefe thinges wald not be interpryifed. In the other pairtis of the cuntrey there is greit quyetnes and obedience; and there is a very dewtifull nobleman, your maiche, the Erle of Kingorne deceiffed,* concerning whois wairde no doubt you will heir be the officeris whome it concernis, who in this fame particular, without regaird of any manis fwite, howevir otherwayes he affectis them, caryes no other founde bot a goode compositioun to his maieftie, and haiftenis to haif it put to the best, that suiteing and importuneing his maieftie there, hinder not his proffeit heir. We haif now ane act registrat in our exchecker bookis, whereof I can not find thefe hundreth veiris past any lyike president, to witt, to lay vp so muche every moneth in floire. It is one of the most dewtifull courses that evir wes intendit for the kinges fervice; for if we had ones bot ten thousand pundis fterling in ftoire, not to be ftirred, the report of it wald do as muche to reteyne our peple in obedience as the interteyneing of a continuall garriefoun. The povertye of the crowne is the caus of the infolence oftentymes of people who propone to them felfis befoir preparatioun can be made for thair perswite, ather a compositioun, or then tyme to efcaipe; bot when it is knowne to be in reddynes, it will flay them to fturre. His maiestie will find the goode of this in a short progres of tyme; and I pray God that nothing from thense hinder the going fordward of it. The Erle of Mar is there alreddy; we looke the chancellour fall shortly tak jornay. I pray God in these busynes of discovereyes whiche yow haif abowe, his maiestie may evir haif a regairde to himself; and yit I doubt not of Godes provydence for his prefervatioun, for I am fully affuired of Godis mercye towardis me, that I fall prevent him, and that he fall longe continew efter; and if it be Godis pleafour, I haif no defure as vit to end. In him is all our earthly happynes; and for my pairt,

[.] He died December 19, 1615, which fixes the date of this letter.

I culd wishe the last confirmation fuld come at the time of his visiteing. Lord keip him, and you yourself still attend him as you do; and so I rest

Youris at command,

ALEXE. HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Decr. [1615?]

To the Right Honorabill and his affuired Mr Johnne Murray of Lochmaben, of his Maiefties Bedchamber

CLIL.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 21, 1615.

SIR,

I must begine with craiveing pardoun for my bypast filence, haveing this excuise, that in so busye tymes abowe, lettres, vales they wer of the more moment, might give mater of offence rather than contentment. To retribute complement for the substance of savour I restaive, wer in me vadewtifulnes. I wrotte vato you in a particular, and obteyned not only the busines dispatched by his maiestie, but so recommendit by your self to him who wes to performe the residew of it, as haveing it all done, I must confess my self your insteaded to the reform no les degrie then if it had bein your owne frie gift, and yit can offer no more then what I wes formerly bounde, and sall evir remayne what I am or evir salbe; and as beggeris do moste importune where they come best speide, I must entreate you in the first occasioun of any of your lettres to

my Lord Thefaurar, your coufeing, to give him thankes for his freyndly dealing in my bufynes, and I hope he fall not find it ewill beftowed. The other lettre* I haif written to be fhewin by you to his maieftie, if you think meitt, or fuppreffed; for I can wryite nothing bot what otheris may bothe preuent me, or wryite bettir; and yit I falbe loathe to wryite any thing bot the treuth. So, with remembrance of my humble dewty to your fueitt bedfellow, vnto whome I pray God grant my Lady Dumfermling hir laite goode lucke, I tak my leive, refting,

At your fervice,

ALEX^R, HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Decr. [1615?]

To his very honorabill and affuired freynd, Mr Johne Murray of Lochmaben, of his Maiesties Bedchamber.

CLIII.—THE EARL OF CRAWFORD AND LORD SPYNIE TO KING JAMES VI. $[1615?]\dagger$

MOST DREDE AND GRACIUS SOUERANE,

We, zour maiesties humble subiectis, the Erle of Crasord, the Lord of Spynie, Anna and Margaret Lindsayis, dochteris to vmquhile

[.] See preceding letter. The present one was entirely confidential.

[†] There is no date to this letter; but it has been placed by Balfour, whose arrangement, however cannot much be relied on, amongst those of 1615. Edzell seems to have been by no means in an enviable situation, for some years after the death of Lord Spynie. In a letter to the King, dated 16th August 1608,

Alexander Lord of Spynie, hering that the presbitrie of Edinburgh, and bischopis of this zour maiesties kingdome, hes enterit in deiling with the Laird of Edgzell for relaxation of him fra his excommunication, without anie fatiffactioun of zour maiestie, or guidwill of ws, quhiche fall neuer be without 30ur maiefties speciall command for oure pairtis, we most humblie haue taken occasioun to pray your maiestie for justeice, and that zour maiestie wald nocht fusser so hard ane preparatiue pas in oure contrare, quho hes no other protectioun, under God, bot zour maiefties favour; and we dout nocht bot zour maiestie will remember the one of ws wanting his vncle and dereft freind, the reft thair father, and hes left ws altogidder ynprovydit; and that puir eftait quhilk it pleiffed zour maieftie of zour most gracius liberalitie to bestow vpone vmquhile the Lord of Spynie, zour maiesties owne creatour, be his vntymlie deith neir brocht to rowein. So, in all humilitie, we most humblie desvre zour maieftie to fend fuche ordour to the bifchopis, that thair be no favour schowne to that cruell murderer without zour maiesties first satisfactioun: Praying to God for zour maiesties monie happie dayis, we, as we aucht, fall ever remaine

Zour Maiesties most humble and obedient subjectis,

CRAFORD. SPYNIE.*

To his most Sacrede Maiestie.

he states that he had " stayit heir in Edinburgh ane yeir bygane, and three months, crawing ewer to be tryit of the onbappy slauchter of my unquhill Lord of Spynic, quhairof I protest before God and your Maiestie I am maist innocent." He complains besides of the persecution of Lord Crawford in March 1609. See Letter, a previous part of this volume, where he accuses that nobleman directly of forgery,

[·] The second Lord Spynie.

CLIV.—SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS OF DRUMLANRIG TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 6, 1616.

RICHT WORTHIE AND LOWING BROTHER,

Se remember, in on of my former lettres, I fchew zow that I had gotin fum tryall of that uyld and barbarous uillaine, quhilk was countit in the flaving of my fcheip, quhen I was last at court; quhairin I did than wreat 3e more sparinglye, being lothe (in respect of 3our griter affairis) to trubill 50w with it, till I had brocht it till fum farther cleirnes, quhilk now I have done, and hes tuo fallowis prefentlie in hand that war actoris in it, the on callit Jok Scott, the fukler, quho hes confeffit the fimpell treuth in all poyntis, bothe of his auin pairte, and the rest that war with him at that filthye actioune, to wit, Geordie Scott, the foutor, callit Mariounis Geordie; Watt Scott, callit Braidis Wattie; Willie Scott, callit of Satchelis; and Ingrum Scott. This fuccler in his confeffloune he condificend is cleirlie both vpoun the tyme, place, and forme of thair meiting and pairting, with all wther takinis and circumstancess that past amongst thame quhen they war togidder (as his depositioun beiris): Notwithstanding, this vther, callit Geordie Scott, the fouter (quhom I have also in handis) ftandis 3it to his denyall. Altho they be many grit prefumptiounis of his guiltinefs, alwayis the fuckler being fundry tymes examinat and confrontit with him befoir the Lordis of Counfall, he abydis conftantly at everye poynt of his first confessioun, and offeris nocht only to feeht the foutir in it, bot all the rest, everic on of thame efter another, quhenfocuer they can be had, gif it will pleis his maieftie and the counfall to fuffer him. The vther thrie ar fugitiues for that and other crymes of thift and flauchter; and, as I wnderstand ar all out of the cuntray, sum in Irland, and fum ellis quhair; vtherwayis befoir this tyme, I think I had fund meanis to have gotin thame in handis, 5it (according till our auld Scottis proverb) "Ane Zule feift may be quat at Pafch," quhen perhapis they may imagin it to be forget. In the meintyme, let me intreit 30w, that 3e will do me that fauowr to motioun this maiter to his maiestie, quhair-

by I may have it by his letter recommendit to the counfall, nocht only for the exact tryall and punishment thairof to the daith, for the wrang that is alredie done, bot also to terrifie all other malefactoris from attemping the lyk heirefter: Quhilk, I proteft to God, I ponder more in refpect of the preparative and confequens that may follow thairvpoun to the preuidice of the comoun weill of the countray, in cais it be lichtlie paffit over vnpunifchit, than for any particular of my avin. Now, gif 3e find it expedient, it war nocht amis, feing the chanfler and fecritar (quha knawis the haill eftate and progrefs of this buffines) ar to be with his maiestie at court, that ze fould have thame neir hand by, guhen ze propoun it to his maiestie, incais he happin to defyre thair opinioun in it. And this I wald befeik 30w to do with all the convenient haift 30w can, that I may have 30wr anguer, with his maiefties letter, befoir the feuinth or aucht of the nixt month; becaus I do intend, Godwilling, at that yme to have thir tuo fallowis, at leift on of thame, put to the tryall of ane affyfe, at quhilk tyme, if nocht befoir thane, I do affur myfelf that God fall move the hart of him quho ftandis most obstinatlie to his denavall euin to confess the treuth, as the other hes done; albeit thair be fum buffie headit men heir, quhom I will nocht name at this tyme, that wald wis the contrair, and ar deiling be all menis possibill, fo far as in thame lyis, to that effect; bot be the grace of God, and his maiefties fanowr, with 30wr help, I howp to difapoynt thame. As for the rest of my particularis, I trust 30w will nocht be forgetfull of thame, and quhen 30w find 30wr auin tyme, will let me knaw, that I may luik for in thame. So I have no more to fay, bot alwayis efter on, I reft

Zowris in quhat I can to ferue 30w,

DRUMLANGRIG.*

Edinburght, the vi. day of Januar 1616.

[•] Sir William Douglas entertained James VI. at his house of Drumlanrig in 1617. He was created a peer by the title of Viscount of Drumlanrig, Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibberis, to him and his heirsmale, bearing the name and arms of Douglas, by patent dated at Whitehall, 1st April 1628. In 1633, he was advanced to the Earldom of Queensberry by patent, dated 13th June, with a similar remainder. He died 8th March 1640.

Jow will do me the fauowr to prefent my humbill feruice to 30wr lady.

To his muche honoured and worthie Brother, Jhone Murray of Lochmaben, Grume of his Maiesties Bedchamber, thes.

CLV.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO JOHN MURRAY. $J_{ANUARY} \ 6, \ 1616.$

Louing Cousing,

I have reffeuit your lettre from Roystoune the 21 off December laft. Albeit ve vill excufe your feliff, yit I vill euer aquauledge your lone and kyndeness, allthoo I knoo it hes not produst suche effects as ye vifcht, vit it is not your fault. And whair as ye vrett that my honours fall be expecte at my lords fecretairs vpcumming, and, in the men tyme, that I take no noteife thairoff to any; I affure you, coufing, I have careid myfellff fo. Bot it hes fallin out vtherwayis, not be me, for me Lord of Scone, at his returne home, haid occasion off conference with me Lord Chanfler, to whome he fchen his maiefteis gratius plefour touarts me in that, you me Lord's demand, thinking he hed beine alls villing heirto, as off befoir he hed proffeft, bot he fund him alltert and oppofeit, and vit moir in forme than effect, bot houeuer by not fo as off befoir; and at my leine taking off me Lord Chanfler, he entert fom thing vith my fellff in that mater, to knau hou far vais proceidit thairin; bot I fcheu his Lordfchip that I kneu nothing. His reffone vais vpon the forme, which he thocht could not be be the Erll of Atholls demission in his auin tyme, bot only be vay off taillzie, as it fell to me Lord Eglingtoune. I denyed that thair vais ony fuche mater concerning myfellff, and vit I reffoned vith him that, be demissione and refignation, that mycht be be his maiesteis vill, all is veill as if by this forme off taillgie, for boithe off them vair be difpositions; albeit that off me Lord Eglingtonnes referred his lyffrent, and the vther not; nor could me Lord Eglingtoune haue fucceidit to the last, be reflore of the ordinar taillgie, as narest of blood, if it haid not beine refignd be the laft lord in the kings hands, referuand me Lord Eglingtoune his lyffrent, and to this efter his difcefs: This he could not ansuer too. I feheu him lykvayis hou the Lord Ochilltry hes his honour and place as the last lord and wtheris: Mycht it not be fo vith me, be all reffoune? my vyffc being the Erlle off Atholls elldeft dochter, and, if his maieftie pleafed, feho mycht boithe be lau and reffoune fucceide to the honour and place off hir father. This he confest vais treu; and fua I endit that difcours, affuring him that I kneu nothing off his maiefteis vill heirin. He vill impede all that he can; me Lord off Scone and I advyft vith me Lord Secretair, wha hes thocht mitest that ve fould boithe vrett to you, that if ye could, it mycht be fent home fubfcryvit, as I take it all redy togidder vith ane lettre to the counfell heir, and command to the keiper of the gret fell to pass the same vith diligence, and this to be donne befoir me Lord Chanfler his cumming to court, fua that thinge being ons done, he valld be content. Conforme heirto, ve haue boithe vretin thir prefents, and they ar to be fent post be me Lord Secretair, to whome ve haue delyverit them. Cufing, doo heirin as ye vill, for if itt fall refleve this fecond lett, I vill have the lefs houpe, and I proteft to God I think moir off mens maleice nor I cair off ony thing ells. I vrett ane lettre to you laittly derect to me Lord off Scone and you boithe, tuitching the dethe of my Lord of Kingorne, and that ve compond for this lords vaird and marriage heir at home for twellff thousand marks: my defyr to you boithe, as lykvais in my vther letter to my brother Sir Patrik, [is] to deill vith his maiestie if I mycht haue haid the composition. What ye haue done heirin I knau not, bot I vald request you to be ane feuter at left to affift Sir Patrik heirin, that his maiestie mycht be pleased to grant it to me, for in confcience, cufing, ye knau my hellp off his maiestie as yit hes bein bot litill, and I doe all that I can to hellp ane diftreflit efteat. It may be that thair vill be vthers in fent off this off his maiestie, at me Lord Chanslers comming thair; and if it could be preveind in tyme, I vald requeift you erniftly. Bot I remitt this to your auin difcretion, and committs you to God. I reft

Yours euer affurit loving Cufing,

TULLIBARDINE.

Edinbro, the 6 off Janouer 1616.

CLVI.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 8, 1616.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND LOVING FREIND,

It is not long fince I trublit yow with ane lettre, with your brother in law of Laristane, quhairof I have not yit receauit answer: Yit, not the les, the former proofe I had of your wndeferued and wnacquyteable fauour imboldenis me agane to truble yow, and maift earneftly to defyre your favourable affiltance, your pouerfull intercession and great moyane, to the fecounding of this my most equitable and humble petition, quhilk the Lordis of our Counfell off Scotland, in my name, hes fent wnto his facred maiestie, be his maiesties speciall command unto my felfe, guhen last I had the honor to kis his royall hands, commanding me guhatfumever I had to fay vnto his maiestie in anye my awin particulars, at my returne to Scotland, to prefent it be petition to thair lordfchips, and to defyre thair lordfhips, in his most facred name, to prefer my equitable, juft, and humble petition to his maiesties royall prefence, to the quhilk his most facred maiestie promeist ane gratious ansuer; affuring myselfe, if in this it fall pleas yow to honour me with your favour, freindshipe, and assistance, to obtain my most equitable defyre, my petition being fo iust and reasonable, as his most gratious maieftie did never refufe the lyke to anye of his gyltles fubjects. Leving, for tedioufnes, the particulars of my petition, for your better influction, I have referred them to the fufficiencie of the beirar, Mr James Reath, feruitour to my Lord Chancellour of Scotland, quhom it will pleis yow to do me the favour to question in this matter: Him also have I most earnestlie intreated to be, in my absence, agent at your hands for me; defyring yow most humblie, as euer I sall be reddye to do yow feruice, that it wald please yow at all times quhen your moir serious adois sall permit me the favour, that, being requyred of the beirar in my name to give your presence to the heiring and affishing of my just cause, not to deny it. For the quhilk to the death, I sall rest

Euer oblished to do yow feruice,

FRANCIS STEHART.

Setoun, the 8 of Januar 1616.

To the Right Honorable and my verie loving freind, Mr Murray of Lochmabane, one of his Maiefties Bedchalmer.

CLVII.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 9, [1616?]

RICHT HONORABILL AND WORTHIE CUSSING,

My best luffe and dewtie rememberit, I haif refaisfed 30wr letter daittit the 21 of December, frome Roystowne, quhairin I persaisse that 3e, Sir, haisse gottin sure resolutions that my Lord Sanquharis sone

is ane and tuentie zeiris compleit bygane at Santandrofe day; as alfo, Sir, 3e defyre me refolwe with my Lord Chanchler and Advocat quhat is best to be done, and the same fall be followed with all faithfulness and expeditioun. As for answer, Sir, therto, within aucht dayis I fall wryt my awin oppinioun and the advocats to 30w; and as for the chanchleris, his lordfchip wes gone to curt befoir I fawe this letter of zowris, bot I fall wryt to his lordschip particulerlie in that bissines of myne, to conffer with zow at lenthe in it, and ze and his lordschip, I dowt nocht, will refolwe on the best curse concerning my weill. For I do trust in my Lord Chanchler as I do in 30w, Sir, for I haif greit pruffe of his lordfchippis fawour in my greitest bissinese; and, Sir, as ewer I may be ebile to ferwe 30wr plefour, let his lordfchip fie that for my caufe, 3e will haife fo muche the greitter cair to ftand freindlie to his lordfchip, and fpair nocht to let his lordschip knawe, albeit ze neid nocht my sute, howe ernist I am with 30w to plefour his lordschip: And, Sir, I ernistlie requist 30w ower agane to do the chanchler all the gud offeice lyis in 30w; for, Sir, confidder he mey do zow gud offcice in oure cuntrie; and giffe ze wnderstude his lordfchip reichtlie, 3e wald find his lordfchip ane worddie man; and I dar affure 30w, the more 3e haiffe ado with him, Sir, 3e fall ewer find the moir worthe in his lordschip; and giff it wer wtherwayis, I protest to God, I wald nocht affirme the fame to 30w as I do, for all the erthe; and the onlie cause makis me, Sir, to wryt this emistlie to zow is pertlie out of my lowe to 30w, as lykwyfe for the luffe I carie to his lordfchip, and that quhilkis laft of all, I knawe his lordfchip to be ane of the honestest myndit men within oure kingdome, and it is ewer fik men I wald wiffe 30w to be in greiteft formes with. And as for my place in cunffell, Sir, 3e haif werie fite tyme now to deill in it, for thair is twa places in cunffell waikand; the ane is my Lord of Gingornis* place, and the wther is Mr George Zowngis place, quha ar baith laitlie diffeiffit at the pleafour of God. My Lord Henziet wesplecid on the cunffell this laft cunffell day, and I lukit, Sir, to haif cumit alfe gud fpeid as any in oure cuntrie that wald haif bein futteris for the fame, alweyes quhat fall I fey, I am a lytile difap-

[·] Patrick, ninth Lord Glamis, and first Earl of Kinghorn, died the 19th of December 1615.

[†] The Earl of Enzie, afterwards second Marquis of Huntly,

poynttit of my expectatiounis; bot, Sir, do 3e in it as 3e pleis. Sir, I knawe gif his maieftie fpeik the chanchler any thing concerning me or my biffines, the chanchler will report better of me nor I am worthe: and I recommend that turne, tuiching my place in confell to 3owr doing, Sir, with als greit expedition as may be, as 3e haif done mekill mair for me. Sir, I am werie diligent [at] prefent till trying the fecreit of my Ladie Torthoroells lyfrent, and fall with the first cettation adwerteise 3ou quhat I learne of the same, bot I can proceid no forder bot be on my tryell till I heir frome 3ow, quhat 5e haif done thereanent 3ourfelf. Sua, I fall ewer continew 3owr effectionat custing to ferwe 3ow,

SANQUHAIR.

Frome Edinburgh, the 9th of Janarey [1616].

Sir, fpeik me Lord Secreitter on my biffines, that if Roxbruche enter my wey with his Lordships, that he may fchewe Roxbruche ther is no helping in that perticuler be lawe to be lukit for to the Lord Sanquhars fone, as lykweyis that his Lordship ley downe no wther curfe to Roxbruche in my contrair.*

To his muche honnoreit gud freind,
Johne Murrey of Lochmeben, on
of his Maiesteis Bedchamber,
theife be givin.

• 18th September 1616. "Thair is charges direct against William Creichton, bastard son to the late Lord Sanqubar, and the Laird of Drumlanrig, one of bis carators, to compear before the counsall-day, the nint of October, now approaching, for satling that mater betuix the Lord Sanqubar and him. The Lords of Roxburgh and Buccleugh, wher two of the saids curators, being personalie present with the Lord Sanqubar, ar warnit heirof apud acta, and promised to keep the said day." Note of Privy Council proceedings. The result of the proceedings on that day was transmitted to the King by the Privy Council, and the letter on the subject will be found in the Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 264.

CLVIII. THE EARL OF ERROL TO JOHN MURRAY. JANUARY 12, 1616.

RICHT HONORABILL AND MY LUIFING FREIND,

Howfoeuir hithertillis I haif neuir found the meanes, in any fort, to oblifhe 50w vnto me, 3it, wnderstanding be findrie aduerteismentis from my fonne, and lastly mair particularlie fra my fonne, my Lord Erskin, 50ur luising kindnes and ondeserwit fauour to my fonne; as I find myself werie far indebtit to 50ur courtesse, fa can I not omit heirby to rander 30w maist herslie thankes for the fame, desyring alwayis the continewance of 50ur regard to him; lyk as, gif be 50ur surtherance he find good succes in his essairis with his maiestie, as he will thairby be the mair able to ferue his maiestie and his luising freindis, sa fall 5e rest assuring, that wherin I and he can serve 50w or any of 50uris to good offices, 3e fall find 50ur kyndnes thankfullie acquyted in what we can be worth, praying 30w to mak wie of ws as occasioun fall offer. Sa, remitting all farther to 50ur luising consideration, my hertly affectioun rememberit, I rest for euir

Jour maift luifing freind,

ERROLL.

Erroll, 12 Januar 1616.

To the Richt Honorabill my luifing freind Johne Murray, one of his Majefties Bedchalmer.

CLIX.—THE EARL OF CAITHNESS TO KING JAMES VI. JANUARY 26, 1616.

Most Grasius Souerene,

The occatioune that hes moued me to fashe zour maiestie with this my letter, is the malicius malice of my iuill disposed nightbouris, quha neuer ceases to do me vrang, and to inuent calumneis aganest me, to incens zour maiesties vrathe aganest me. Thay haiue inuentit ane most odius and ane inhumane lie, as my Lord Binning and Jhone Murray wille informe 5our maiestie at grytter lenthe, whilk thay wald, if thay could, mak me to be the authore of (wheche inuentioune will not content thame, all thought that the vorld knauis my innofensie, and hes offered myselfe to the tryell of zour maiesteis most honorabille counfell, if I could find ane accuser). Thay haife preaced to fuborne brokin men to lie wpone me, be promifing thame bothe land and geare, as I fall qualifie; thinking throw the intollarabille wrangis I daylie fufftine, I will be compelled to do fume thingis aganest thame for my creditis cause, to brake 50ur maiesteis peace, and be that mine to make me to lofe zour maiesteis fauour. My ennimeis ar many and malifius: (my confort is) I knaw 50ur maiestie is wyfe, and will wy my willing hairt to do zour maiestie service, withe the malife and numer of my fois. I confidder vith my felfe thair is no remaneing heire to me, feing I uill be forfed to parrell 5our maiesteis fauour, or then to fuffer bothe fehame and skethe, quhilk is hard to ane nobill hairt. God of his merfie grant me pafiens to I heire from 30ur maiestie, and knaw 30ur will. I most humblie bege at your maiesteis most grafius hands, not for enny thing that is in me, nor enny merit that euer I haife deferued, or is abille for to deferue; bot for Godis cause lat me haife ane just tryell and justife, fo to zour maiesteis most admirabille wisdome will tak suche ordoure, that according to zour maiesteis plessoare, and my good intentioune, I haif occatioune to liue in peace. I tak my liue, withe all humilitie, wishing 5our maiestie many and happie dayis, withe all contentment that 5our awine hairt wald wishe. I fall euer remane

Joure Maiesteis most houmille servand to the deithe,

CAITHNES.*

Caftill Sinclair, 26 Januar 1616.

To the King his most Sacred and Excellent Majestie.

CLX.—THE COUNTESS OF EGLINTOUN TO [MRS MURRAY?]

My DEARE AND LOUING BROTHER,+

I did refeaue your kynd and wealkom letter from Sir Daued Morray, which did infinitile content me boeth by the pleafing newis of her maiefties good helth, and her fingullar fauour fhowed to you in this fullich falling out of Sumerfyds with you, to his oune grit difgrace, which hes med him fo heated of thofs hear that ar bound to you, and knowes your trew worth and his fallfhoud, that if ther war non but your feruant my houfband, he wold, if it war exceptable to you and nefficer, vndertak to pruf him ane erand lyare in that he wret to you, and meffage fent with that vngret fullich confing of yours, Herie Gib.‡ I long now to hear what fatifffacione is med vnto her maieftie and you. I pray God increfs her gritnefs with the king, and eftimacione and loue of the piple, with

George, fifth Earl of Caithness. He died in 1643, aged 78. A worthless noblemao, even for those
times. His base betrayal of the unfortunate Lord Maxwell is an indelible stain on his memory.

[†] So in the original, but the letter is evidently addressed to the lady of John Mnrray.

[‡] It may be inferred, from the strong language used against Somerset, that the favourite was then tottering. This letter was probably written early in the year I616, as Somerset and his infamous wife were brought to trial on the 24th of May in that year.

ane long and hapic raing ouer ws. I was mor then defyrous to haue hard the fertantic of thes things from you, and especialic conferning your owne helth, which I pray God may be good, and I doubt not of your wealfear other ways, but I protest your fiklines, when I hard it, did mor griue me then yee can imagine, and I was never content till ye wret to me of your better helth: God of his merfie increfs it whileft I liue. As conferning thos particulars yee defyred me, I have bein conrious for your fatefffactione to tray them, and fyndis that my Lord Ab[ercorn?] dois efteim him felf bound to my Lord Chamberland * for no thing but fear wordes, and thinkis him proud and feelefs; and I have this out of his owne moueth, that he could have found in his hert to have foughtin him in your gwarell. Boeth hee and Sir Wiliam Setoun did much prefs your good interteanment at your owne hous, and kyndnes to me. We have bein all at Jhon Achamutis† wading to Sir Wiliams dochter, wher yee was oftin remember'd. As for my Lord B. hopes they ar but fmall, as I euer doubted. It was thought that Sir James Stewart, now Lord Oc[hiltrie]; did put him in hop the chamberland wold doe much for him, and when he found himfelf defeu'd at his coming to court, I think he was affhamed to enter with you, in respect he did not creue your opunione nor your houfbands in this vp coming; but as I did expect, he rewis it. I pray you lat me know what is don betwext your houfband and Louchinvar§ conferning thos lands he has in wadfet in Loudiane, for Louchinwar gaue it out that ye had agried with him for his right, but I remember ye med me once diffuad my fifter and her housband to give ther confent to him, fo I can not think ye ar agried, but if it might content you or your houfband, they wold give it to your felf, but not to him; fo I expect to hear from you conferning those matteres.

Now, dear brother, I can not omit to give you thanks of the infinet

- · Earl of Somerset.
- † John Auchmootie, Groom of the Bedchamber, afterwards knighted.
- ‡ Upon the 9th of June 1615, Sir James Stewart of Killeith obtained a charter to the lands and barony of Ochiltree. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 329.
- § Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar. He married Lady Isahel Ruthven, daughter of the Earl of Gowrie, by whom he had John, created, in 1633, Viscount Kenmure and Lord Lochinvar.

fauouris boeth you and your worthie houfband at all ocasionis schowis to me and my houfband; and now in haueing fuch ane car at my Lord Glenkern, got no thing don in our preiougice. Ther was ane letter procour'd from his maiestie to my lord, in fauours of the Lerd of Eakat, which he hes fent the anfur of to your housband to prefent to his majestie, with the trew informacione of the efteat of that erand; and I most intret you to infift that he will have ane care that his maieftie does not beliue anie wrong informacione of our vnfrends. My lord hes his feruice remember'd vnto you, as to her whom he thinks himfelf mor bound vnto then he is able to reqwyt: Boith he and I am affhamed that as yet we haue in no mefour but good will requyted the infinit obligacie we owe you; but I wish we may live no longer if yee have not full powar to comand ws in what is in our pouar to plefour you and your houfband, whois imployment is we long for. I will fay no mor, but hopes ye will do it shortlie; as I wish it to be also trew that my Lord of Skun hes givet Fakland to you alredie, but I pray you lat me hear of it from your felf, which will mak me haue the greter defyre to liue and fie you ther as I wish. My good Ladie Mar, pressed be God, growis stronger the neirer her tyme aproches. Her fonne, my Lord Bouchan,* and the Erell of Routhous,† beifs boeth wadet this nixt wiek to their young brydes. God giue them much ioye. My Ladie Erskins dochter is deperted this lyf, but groues fat herfelf. Your fonnes, Hew and Henrie, is in good helthe, thanks to God, and I trust shall be men to serue you, and efter Mertimes I expect vee will pray for me, that I may bring fureth this chyld, and line to deferue your innumerable kyndneses; but housever, ye

[•] James, eldest son of the second marriage between John seventh Earl of Mar and Lady Stewart, married Mary, Countess of Buchan in her own right, and thereupon he assumed the title of Earl. On the resignation of his wife, a royal charter of the earldom was, 22d March 1617, granted to the countess and her husband, in conjunct fee and liferent, and to the longest liver of them, and the heirs-male of their marriage, whom failing, to the nearest lawful heirs-male and assignces whatsoever of the said James Earl of Buchan.

[†] John fifth Earl of Rothes, whose History of the Church was recently printed as a contribution to the Bannatyne Club, married Lady Ann Erskine, sister of Lord Buchan, and second daughter of John Earl of Mar. He died 2d May 1640.

shall neer show fauour to anie that boeth in lyf and death shall trewlier rest

Yours most fathfulie affectionat euerie way,

Anna C. Eglintoun.*

My ladie, my good mother, remembers her louing dewtie vnto you and to your houfband.

CLXI.—THE EARL OF LOTHIAN TO KING JAMES VI.

April 10, 1616.

Most gratious Souerane,

I reffeauit your maiesties lettre, beiring that as your maiestie wes gratiouslie pleisit to grant your remission to Johnnestounburne, so your maiestie wald wische that your clementce wer extendit towardis his estait; and thairsoir desyreing me, that these landis whilk I posses be his forfaytour sould be restoirit bak vnto him, he giveing vnto me suche satisfaction as my vmquhile sather offerit to have acceptit. As in all dew submission and reverence, I acknawledge myself bundin to acquiesce in eurie thing to your gracious maiesties will and pleasour, seing nothing can proceid frome your maiestie bot that whilk is weill groundit vpoun infallible reasones of equitie and gude conscience, so, laying asyde all private consideration whilk I micht have pretendit on that foirseytour, as being disponit vnto me be your facred maiestie, in rememberance of

Lady Anne Livingstone, eldest daughter of Alexander first Earl of Linlithgow, and wife of Alexander sixth Earl of Eglintoun. She died November 1632. This letter has no address, but was probably written to the wife of John Murray.

fum zeiris feruice and attendence vpoun your maiestie, I wes content to enter in a freindlie commoning with him. And first, I vrgeit that poynt mentionat in your maiesties lettre, anent the conditioun past betwixt my father and him, being refoluit yf it had bene cleirit to haue gevin vnto your maiestie satisfactioun thairin, bot he wes nocht abill to qualifie nor instruct ony fuche conditioun; and he haveing failzeit in this, I proponit vnto him the judgement of indifferent freindis, quhilk wes acceptit; bot thefe quhilkis wer for him ftoode fo preceiflie vpoun his richt, whilk wes befoir his forfevtour that thay fufferit the fubmiffioun to defert; as more particularlie the berare heirof, Sir Williame Balfour, who wes one of the commoneris, will informe your maiestie, in eurie circumstance, to guhois relatioun I refer the fame. And fo, humblie befeiking your facred maiestie nocht to harken to the reporte of my pairtye, bot to think of me as of one who in finceritie of trew affectioun, with all fubmiffine obedience, falbe willing and reddie, with the best of my indevoiris, to serue your maiestie in what I am abill to do, I end with my hartye and humbill prayeris vnto God for the lang continuance of your graceis most bliffit and happie regne, and I do rest for euir

Your Maiesties most humbill and obedient feruitour,

LOTHIANE.*

Newbottill, the tent of Aprile 1616.

To the King his most facred and excellent Maiestie.

Robert, second Earl of Lothian, succeeded his father, Mark, the first Earl, in 1609, and died 15th July 1624.

CLXII.—LORD MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI. April 1616.

IT MAY PLEIS 30UR MAIESTIE,

Zour gratious fauour conftranis me to tak the bauldnes, humblie wpone my knees, to give your hienes most humble thankis for the monye benefeittis I haif refauit of zour maiesteis liberalitie, and not the les of my absence frome your maiestie thir ten zeiris past. It hes pleafit zour maiestie to remember me with moir fauour in honoring me with the name of ane barroun, then I can deferue; quhilk mowis me to be fo far obleift in affectioun and loue to zour maiefteis fernice and pleafour, as to omit no occasioun quhairin I may gif pruisf of my fidelitie. At my last depairting frome zour maiestie, it pleasit zour maiestie to command me to aduerteife zour hienes of the estait of this cuntrye, quhilk hes beine in gret quyetnes, and zour fubiects maift loving to obey all zour maiesteis directionnes. And at this prefent, haisling fua guid occasioun to mak 50ur maiestie aduerteisment of our happie estait and government, I vill forbeair the wayne byward, quhilk men of my age is accustumat to utter, quhilk in effect is to praise the dayis and zearis bypast, and the present to be ciwill; albeit the treuth is, I have continowit longer in 30ur maiesteis and princlie predecessoris feruice, then ony parfoun this day living; and all the faid zearis we was destitut of the trew religioun, our cuntrye being full of barbarity, deidlie fedis, and oppreffigures. Since the tyme zour maiestie tuik the manyment of the effairis of 5our princelie dominiounes in 5our awne hand, all 5our hyenes cuntreis hes beine peaceible and quyet; and speciallie this cuntrye, quhair the trew religioun fluriffis, and justice fua veill ministrat be zour electioun of 50ur faithfull officiaris, as I may be bauld to affirme, that no cuntrye is in ane mair happie cftait, and hes bettir occasioun to be thankfull to

God, and faithfull to 5our maieftie. Thair is fic loue borne to 5our maieftie, as 3our officiaris ftryves amongis thame felffis quho fall do beft, being prefentlie in hand to decoir all deformiteis in this cuntrye that hes beine ouerfeine in tymes paft, and fpeciallie 3our maiefteis houffis, and the Caftell off Edinbrughe fau weill orderit, as I hoipe it falbe to 5our maiefteis guid contentment; and the prefent officiar in the thefaurie* verrie panefull and diligent in repairing the reft of 3our houffis, quho omittis no occasioun to put all the reft to the fame poynt. Haiffing tane the bauldnes to be fo tedious to 5our maieftie, efter I kyffit 5our maiefteis hand, I humblie tak my leiff, praying God to grant 3our maiefte monie long and happie dayis, in quhais protectioun I commit 5our maieftie.

Jour Maiesteis most humble and obedient subiect and feruitour,

RT. MELUILL.+

To the Kingis Maiestie of Great Brytane.

CLXIII.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO KING JAMES VI.

May 26, 1616.

Most Gratious Souerane,

The heighe benefite laitlie granted to me be your maieftie, in granting me acces to your facred prefence, being the thefaure incomparable; as also the former favour in the purches of my wyse (being, according to the coustume of all other dast youthes, than the first of my

^{*} Sir Gideon Murray.

[†] There is no date to this letter, but it must have been written about the time the patent was passing the seals, creating Sir Robert Lord Melville.

vifles), hes emboldened me, with a few lynnes, in all fubmiffion and humilitie, to giue your maiestie, so gratious a souerane, most hartie and humble thanks for both, that hes fo gratiouslie overshaddoued me with so great and fauorable benefitis, and that of free grace, and but any my merite, being the poore diffressed fone of ane vnhappie father, your owne creature, inriched with favour, honor, credite, and all other felicitie, abowe his or ony other fubiccts merite: ay, and quhile his brutifhe, haynous, and detestable defection, and so justlie defervand to himself and all his posteritie tenfold more heavie and sharpe afflictiones and punishment then ewer befell ws; whairin I have no other meafour to beg, bot willinglie to fustene and indure fo mony as your most excellent maiestie pleassis to injoyne, being the prince leifand who best knowis what of law, reaffone, equitie or confcience, aught to be done. I have nothing to prefent to your maiestie bot a loyall hart, a faith onspotted, placeing my being in your maiefties fole favour, and more willing, then to leif, to facrafize my lyfe at ony occasion in your maiesties fervice. Most humblie begand that your maiestie wold be gratiouslie pleased to esteme of me that your command falbe the rewll of my lyfe, no wher ellis fall I feik favour. If any it fall pleas your facred maieftie to beftow, whatfoeuer be the meafour thereof, I fall reft and acquiefce thair at with contentment, and fall fpend my hole ftudie and cair to pleas, and nowayis offend your maiestie, to my lysis end. Humblie prayand the Eternall to grant bothe your maiefties, your childrene and posteritie, all temporall and eternall felicitie.

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient feruiteur,

FRANCIS STEUART.*

Seton, 26 Maij 1616.

To his most facred Maiestie.

• Eldest son of Francis Stewart, the turbulent Earl of Bothwell. He married Lady Isahella Seton, only daughter of Robert, first Earl of Winton. His son and heir, Charles, is said to have been a trooper in the civil wars, and the prototype of Francis Bothwell, the dashing cavalier, in Old Mortality. From the kirksession records of Perth, it appears that a son of his received alms as a pauper—a melancholy proof of the instability of human greatness.

CLXIV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI. AUGUST 27, 1616.

MAY IT PLEASE JOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

As I did præfume to acquent 3our hienes with the progres of the Affemblie from Aberdein, fo nou I doe vith the finisching thairof, which (according to that happie fucces vhairwith God hes alwayis bliffed zour maiesteis most gratious actionis) is concludit, vith great contentment of all estatis. The Marquis of Huntly keipitt the day apoyntit; vhaire itt vas aduyfitt that the archbifchopis, vith the præfident and certane vtheris, fchould first deall with him, to resolue his doubtis; lyke as, I did particularlie defyre him to remember zour maiefteis gratious fauour touardis him, and obey 50ur hienes directionis. He, efter fum difficulteis, condefenditt to cum before the Affemblie and giue fatiffaction, whair the Archbifchop of Sanctandrois did fo vyfelie moderat, that the Marquis gaue humble obedience, and the church receaued full contentment; and efter opin reading of thois thingis enacted, according to sour maiefteis direction, and receauing of certen special citizenis of Aberdein fuspect of Poprie, and thair publick affenting to the particular Articles of the Confession of Faith establishitt at this Assemblie, the sam vas concluditt vith generall applaufe, all praifing God, and praying for long continuance of 3our maiesteis happie raing. As to my felf, altho I have bein villing at this tym to discharge that humble and faithfull deutie, which I am alwayis bund to perform in 3our maiesteis seruice; 3itt, the good fucces of all dois onlie proceed from zour maiefteis godlie, vyfe, and happie deffeingis, which the Lord fo vonderfullie prosperis, that ve, zour maiesteis faithfull feruandis, ar more and more encourgitt to proftrat our lyuis, for the aduancment of vhatfumeuer zour maiesteis serwicis; lyk as, I doe particularlie acknauledge myfelf infinitlie tyed to 30ur maiesteis most gratious remembrance and trust to me, vhich, in all humble and faithfull obedience, so long as I leiue, I schall studie to deferue, and schal be most readie to seall vith my blood. Remitting the more particular relatione to the archbischopis, in all humilitie, I kiss 50ur hienes handis, praying God for the long continuance of 30ur maiesteis prosperous estate and happie raing ouer vs,

Jour Maiesteis most humble and obedient subject and feruitor,

Montrose.*

Newmontrofe, the 27 of August 1616.

To his most Sacred Maiestie.

CLXV.—THE EARL OF HOME TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

December 8, 1616.

My Lord,

I heare, by my Lord Hambilton, that Frances Stewart has fubmited all his difrences with all partes to the kinge, and that theare is a blancke left to bee filde up with my fonnes name; and that if it weare thought fit by my fonnes frendes, that he floulde come in, that I floulde aduartis your lordfhip, that his name might bee contaynde in the fub-

^{*} Joho, fourth Earl of Mootrose, married Lady Mary Ruthven, eldest daughter of William, first Earl of Gowrie. He was the father of the celebrated Marquis of Montrose. His lordship died 24th November 1626.

mishtjon. Trewly, my lord, I coulde haue wisht his parte of that bisnes had not byn to haue settled, tel his yeayrs had given him tow understande beter, that he might haue byn a dealer for his owne composishtyon; but now I see no remedey but it must be ventred. God sende him sinde as much fauer at the kinges handes as the rest. I have writin to my Lord of Morton* to seeke his opinion heare in, and if he thincke as I dow, then that he will speacke with your lordship, and that you will bee plesse to let his name bee put in. The great savor that your lordship hathe ever showne to him in his presence, I must houmbly bege the continuance of in his absence; and as I have sounde allready your lordships respect and care of him to have presarved him from many inconvenentes, so in that must I repose his safety still to protect him from the maney ingures of so maney malishtyus, unconstyonat peple, that are continualley plotinge his hurt. For which he will be bounde with his utormost indevers to dow farues, and myselfe to remayne,

Your Lordships trewly afectionat frende and feruant,

HOME.T

London, this 8 of December [1616?]

To the Right Honorabill my Lord Chanflor.

[•] William, Earl of Morton, horn 1582, served heir to his father Robert, 3d July 1605, and to his grand-father, 4th November 1606. He died in Orkney, where he had retired during the great civil war, 7th August 1648, in the 66th year of his age.

⁺ From the writer mentioning that he had a son, he must have been Alexander, sixth Lord, and first Earl of Home. He died 5th April 1619. His son James, though twice married, had no issue by either of his wives, in consequence of which the titles, upon his death, in the month of February 1633, in virtue of the remainder to heirs-male whatsomever, devolved on Sir James Home of Coldingknows.

CLXVI.—THE LORDS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

March 14, 1617.

Most Gratious and Sacred Souerane,

We reffauit your maiesteis lettre tuitcheing that overtur and propositioun maid vnto your maiestie, anent the making of linning cloathe in this kingdome in another foirt and maner nor formarlie hes bene wrought heir, and tuitcheing the making of goode and fufficient tyill for building and felaitting of houffis at lowe raittis; whairin it wes your maiefteis pleafour to crave our aduife and opinioun, yf the preuilege foght of your maiestie for this purpois myght importe ony benefeit or prejudice vnto the cuntrie. As with all dew reuerence and most humble thankis, we acknowlege your maiesteis faderlie cair, and the respective confideratioun whilk your maiestie hes ever had of the publict goode of this your maiesteis kingdome, in being so spairing to yield to ony overturis and propositionis of the natur and qualitie foirsaid, whill first your maiestie commynicat the fame vnto your maiesteis counsall heir; whairin it becometh ws in all finceritie and efauldnes, without ony privat refpectis or confiderationis to prefent oure fimple and waik opinionis and judgement vnto your facred maiestie. So, we haveing at lenthe conferrit, reasouned, and confultit vpoun the benefeit and inconvenientis whilk by the overtur foirfaid, and preuilege foght of your maiestie for that purpois, may refult to this kingdome, we do find the overtur and propositioun foirfaid, alfucele anent the workeing of the cloathe, as of the tyill, in the forme and tennour as is confavit in your maiesteis lettre to be necessair and verve expedient to be imbraceit, and to importe the publict goode and benefeit of the kingdome, and that a preuilege for fome certane veiris may be grantit to that effect, respect being alwayes had to the terme of the preuilege, and that the same be for suche a reasounable space as nouther

your maiesteis subiectis haif iust caus of greif and complaynt, as being frustrat of the hoipis of thair awne labouris and traveillis in leirning of the faidis workis, nor yitt that the vndirtakaris of thir workis haif mater of grudge and miscontentment, and so be discourageit to profequente and follow oute the worke. And so, with oure humble and hairty prayeris vnto God, recommending your facred maiestie, with all your royall progenye, vnto his divyne and fatherlie protectioun, we rest for ever

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedyent fubicctis and feruitouris,

Sanctandrois. Glencairne.

Blantyre. Wigtoun.

A. Elphinston. Ross.

Jo. Prestoun. R. Cokburne.

ALMUSSAR. CL[ERICU]S REG[ISTR]I.

Edinburgh, the xiiij day of Marche 1617.

To the King his most facred and excellent Maiestie.

CLXVII.—ARTICLES GIVEN BY THE JUSTICES OF PEACE FOR ABERDEEN.
[1617]?

Articles givine in be the Justices of Peace within the schirefdome of Aberdeine to the Lordis of his Maiesteis Secreit Counfall, for Reformatione of the Abusis following.

In the first, becaus their ar diveris vagabundis within the faid schiref-

dome, quha ar giltie of thiftis, pykrie, and robing, and vther fufpect perfones of thift, quhais punishment and tryell is neglectit be the shereflis, thairfor, the saidis Justices of Peace cravis ane commissione to be givine to thame to try and punish sik persones.

Item, becaus the faid fehirefdome is verie fpatious, and quhen any perfones ar apprehendit within the faid fchirefdome, be the faidis Juftices of Peace, quhais transportatione to the brught of Abirdeine, is verrie expensive, daingerus, and trubilfome to the faidis Justices of Peace, thairfoir, it is cravit that jeyollis and ward-houssis may be buildit be the faidis Justices of Peace within evrie presented of the faid fchirefdome; and for that esset, that the half of the fynis may be allowit to the faidis Justices of Peace for building thairof.

Item, becaus the clerkis, officeris, and remanent memberis of court will not exerce thair functionis without fwme reflonabill fatiffactione for thair paines, thairfoir, it is cravit that ane compitent fie be modifeit, to be payit to thame of the first and reddiest of the faidis fynis.

Item, becaus the faidis Justices of Peace, haveing prefentit captives and malefactouris to the schireff of Abirdeine his deputis, and to the provest and bailleis of the said brugh, thay refuse to accept thame as thair handis, thairfoir, it is cravit that swme expedient cours may be takine thairanent.

Item, becaus thair ar diveris parochines within the faid fchirefdome, quhilk hes no jeyoll or ward-hous; thairfoir, it is cravit be the faidis Juftices of Peace, that thai may have power to ward the perfones to be takine be thame, within thair awin duelling houffis, quhill jeollis be buildit, or that the prifoneris may be convenientlie transportit.

Item, becaus the perfonis vulawit be the Justices of Peace will not willinglie mak payment of the fynis and vulawis, it is thairfoir cravit that

lettres of horning, poinding, and vtheris exe[cutoria]llis necessair, may be direct vpone the actis maid be the faidis Justices, for recoverie of payment thairof, and of the contrabutione to be imposit for fusteining of the puir of the indigent persones.

Item, to remember to fpeik my Lord Chancellour that quhilk I am directit be tonge.

CLXVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL. [June 1617.]

It coulde not bot be verie greeuous vnto vs if the earnest desire wee haue longe had to vifite that our natiue and ancient kingdome of Scotlande, shoulde be mette at our arrivall there, with anie vnvelcome coldenes of a nomber of our good fubicces in that contrie, and that by the occasion of a præiudged opinion in manie of our peoples hartes, grounded vpon falfe rumouris, eyther maliciouslie or foolishlie spred anent the causes and erandes of our intention to repair thether at this time. Wee haue therefor thoughte it verie convenient, for preventing of this miftaking, to make by thefe prefents, an ingenuous and fincere profession vnto you of the motiues inducing vs to refolue vpon our jorney thether at the time appointed. First, wee are not ashamed to confesse, that wee haue had these manie veares a greate and naturall longing to fee our native foyle and place of our birthe and breeding, and this falmond-like inftincte of ouris hath reftleflie, both when wee wer awake, and manie times in our fleepe, fo ftirred vp our thoughtes and bended our defires to make a iorney thether, that wee can neuer reft fatiffied till it shall pleafe God that wee may accomplish it; and this wee do, vpon our honour, proteste to be the maine and

principall motiue of our intendit iorney. But vnto this defire of ouris, proceeding frome a naturall man, is joyned the care wee haue to discharge our kinglie office the time of our being there, and fo to mak vfe of our naturall affection, by applying that occasion to the discharge of our calling; wherein, firste, our greateste care shalbe to heare and give redresse to fuch infte complaintes, if anie there be, of our fubicctes, as coulde not vtherwife be fo well redreft withoute our owne prefence; and our nexte cair shall be to reforme anic such abuse or disorder, if wee shall sinde anie, as could not be fo well performed in our abfence. As for making anie alterations or reformations in the state of that government, eyther eeclefiafticall or civile, it is trew wee wilbe glad that by our prefence as manie thingis tending to good as may be, may have their fetling in the time of our being there, but we wish not onlie you, who, by your place, ar best acquaynted with our intentionis, but all our good subjectes of whatfoeuer degree, to have that fetled confidence in our honeftie and diferetion, that wee will not fo much as wish anie thing to be done there, which shall not tende to the gloric of God and the well of that commonwealth, and all our good fubicetis therein. As alfo, there may be divers thinges, which, although wee mighte inflie wish them, yet may ther be fo manie impedimentis and lettes to croffe them, that although, in our confcience and honestie, wee might anow them to be good, yet in our difcretion we wold be loth to trouble ourfelfe and our good fubiectes with them at this time, except they mighte aswell proue to the generall liking and applaufe of our people, as to the benefite and well of the commonwealth. Wee ar therefor hereby earneftlie to defire you, that yee will, not onlie for your oune partes, harbour no prejudged conceapte of our intention vpon the ground of thefe idle rumouris, bot also make this our fincer declaration come to the eares of our other good fubicates, [that] wee may have conforte of fuch a joyfull meeting there with our people, as wee for our parte shall euer deferue. To conclude, wee pray you to reste assured that our intention is so to behaue ourselfe, the time of our being there, as euerie one shall fee that our care shall not be wanting to do afmuch good as wee can, and yet fo to carie ourfelfe, as our actions

shalbe accompanied with the applause and hearty confente of all our good people.

[Indorfed:]
Lettre dited by his Maieftie felfe to
the Counfell, before his going to
Scotland.

CLXIX.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1617.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

As I did oftymes importune your maieftie at your being heir, by dealing with your hienes that no fauor might be granted to Symon Scott of Bonyngtoun, himfelf, his breither and complices, for the cruell flaughter of one of the fones of Walter Scott of Harden,* for will I now, in moft humble maner, craue pardone to put your heines in rememberance thairof. I knaw they haue fent vp to folicit the buffines, and ar put in houpe, by the moyane of thair freindis thair, to get a pardone, at leift to procuir the gift of thair lifrentis to be difponit to fume freind for thair behoue, whiche is almost equivalent to a pardon. Geue they wer apprehendit and broght to thair puneschment, it wer not amisse to dispone thair escheatis andlysrentis in fauoris of thair freindis and childering; and coumonlie that cours is keiped when malesactoris are punesched for thair faultis; but such as committ slaughter, and ar maid rebelles for the same, thair escheates and lysrentis vses alwyse to be disponed to the partie that hes gottin the herme, and so is maid a part of thair punesch-

In October 1616, "Walter Scot, second sone to Harden, was creully murthered by Scot, Laird of Boniton, and hes brother; the murtherers escaped."

ment. This cours haue I alwyfe keped in your maiefteis fernice, and neuer fuffered the efcheat of a malefactour that efcheaped punifehment to pas in his fauoris. I procured your hienes hand to a fignatour of that lyfrent in fauoris of my fone-in-law, who is brother to the persone that wes killed. Geue your maieftie wilbe pleased that I geue it him to be put throw, anie suit to be maid in fauoris of the malefactoris may be resulted with the better reasone, that your hienes haue maid grant thairof already. Whairanent I humblie intreat the significatione of your maiesteis plesour, and will end with earnest and feruent prayeris for your hienes longe preservatione in all healthe and happienes.

Your facred Maicsteis most humble and faithfull feruand.

G. MURRAY.

Edinbrught, 9 of September 1617.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

CLXX.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.

November 5, 1617.

PLEASE YOUR GRACIOUS MAIESTIE,

I receavid your maiesties letter, schowing the repoirtis made of me to your maiestie be suche persons, and willing and requyreing me, vnder my hand, to certisse your maiestie of my mind in these Articles, which your maiestie desyred to be receaved into this Church.

As to the reporteris, certanelie I admire what fould have moved thame to repoirt to your maiestie that which was passed in privat betuix ws; for, fpeaking with thame of fome particulares, I fehew to thame fimply my opinione, to knaw thair judgement thairin; bot I neuer faid to any of thame that ather I was varefolued, or throughly refolued, into these Articles, bot was to informe myself in tyme of eueric poynt of thame, and to do according to my knawledge to informe otheris. And as to my awin mynd in eueric one of these Articles, this is it, Ser; bot with most humble protestationne:—

- I. That I trewly fett down to your maiestie what I think of thame, being readie, vpon better informatione frome your maiestie, to amend what is amisse.
- II. That this is my awin privat opinione keepit with myfelf, and yit vncommunicat to any man, and fend to your majestie first to vndergoe your maiesties censure.
- III. That what I wryte, it is frome a afald mynd, readie to help fordward your fervice, fo far as my knawledge and credite may reache; and thairfoir wold be the more favourablie accepted, and able to procure of your majeftie, that, as your majeftie hath done before to me, fo your majeftie wold put to your hand to pen, and fend me your particular informatione and warrand of these Articles, which I may embrace and follow; for thay ar Articles which I neuer thoght necessar to tak paines in to know thame, till I hard your maiestie propone thame as thoght meete be your maiestie to be embraced be ws.
- I. As to the first Article, of Confirmatione: I think it is sufficiently fett down in the last General Assemblie at Aberdeene, and need is no more bot to be put in practife.
- II. As to the nixt Article, of Holy Dayis: of Christ our Saviouris nativitie, passione, refurrectione, ascensione, and comming of the Holy Spirite, to be keepid with preaching, prayar, prayse, &c., I think it the more indifferent, becaus I reide that Augustine comptis it among aposto-

lik traditions, and observed be all kirkis, Lib. Epist. 118; and fundry Reformid Kirkis vses it, both in Germany and Swifferland, as thair dominical fermons in these days printed testifies.

Bot with ws the fame will feeme more hard to be embraced; becaus hitherto we have beene frie of thame, keeping only the Lordis day, and on it preaching (I am affured) fufficientlie of Chrift's nativitie, paffione, refurrectione, and afcensione, and comming of the Haly Spirit, almost in all our fermons; and it will be hard to set up a weeke day for thame whilk will not be abused be superstition and surfet; and the pastors will be more bussed in declameing against abuses, nor in preaching of Christs gospel. I schew in my privat talking with Doctor Joung, that give when these days fell on a weeke day, thay sould be referred to the nixt Lordis day (as the Councell of Nice concludit concerning the day of the celebratione of the Lordis Supper), and the ministrie ordayned to change thair ordinary textis, and mak that the subject of thair doctrine that day, it wold appeare that your maiesties desyre wer reasonably satisfied.

- III. As to the thrid Article, of Baptisme, to be ministred at all tyms to these that craises it: I think it sould be graunted; and betaix summe and summe, in day time, to be denyed to name quho is a knowin honest persone of that slocke. But to graunt baptisme in prinat houses, and under silence of night, to such as craise it (if this be the Articles meaning), were to confirme the opinione of absolute necessitie of baptisme, which is dangerous, and to doe as our Church wer under persecutione; when as we inious pace under your gracious maiestie to doe the workis of the ministrie in publict, in day light, and at all occasiouns.
- IIII. As to the ferd Article, of the celebratione of the Lords Snpper in priuat houses, to persons craveing it: I think it may be graunted, bot not absolutly (for then euerie wyse most haue it before she come to church from her chyld bed, and euerie headach myst haue the communioun before it come to the calsay, and that graunted to one, most be commoun to otheris, or the pastor salbe exclamed on as a respecter of persons, in end, the sacrament sall become of so small accompt in

publict, as few fall be had to celebrat the remembrance of the Lordis dead, in the publict affemblies of the Church, whairupon arrofe, of old, the celebratione of prinat meffis), but according to that inftance which I hard your maieflie give of your old fervand, Johne Bog, that is, if ane knawin honeft man, vpright in the religioun, haue keepid houfe or bed for a yeere or tuo, and is vnable through age and feeknes to refort to the church, then he earneftlie craifing it for the confirmatione of his fayth, in the affurance of the remifficum of his fynns and lyfe euerlafting, I think it might be graunted to him, fome reasonable number of his honeft neighbouris accompanying him thairat, with his minister.

V. As to the fyft Article, of receaving the Lordis Supper kneeling: Trewlie, Ser, I wolde faine be informed of your maieftie, how I might doe it myfelf? how I might informe otheris to doe fo? and how, be reafone, I might meete and mend otheris who ar of contrary mynd? And as for my awin opinione heerin, I think as yit that the beft forme of taking it is, as we do, fitting; becaus, firft, Christ our Lord did fo: he had a table, Luk. 22. 21; and, vers 14, fat down with the tuels to celebrat the supper; and Christis actione sould be our institutione. And the Apostles rule is, 1 Cor. 11. 1, "Be the followeris of me as I am of Christ;" and, vers 23, "I have receaved of the Lord that which I have delyvered vnto yow;" so following simply the practise of the Lord in the celebratioun of the facrament.

Nixt, prayar and prayfe going immediatly before the actioun, and following immediatly after the actioun, with kneeling: it appearis most simply that the actioun itself fould be according to the custome vsed in such actiouns, and that is, to eate and drink fitting, and as communicantis with our Lord, to rejoyse with him at his table.

Thridly, The Churches Apoftolik, and fuch as followed after thame, till the yere 1215, neuer vfed, as I can reid, kneeling at the receaving of the communion, till Pope Innocentius 3, at Lateran, decreed transfubftan-

tiatione of the elementis in the Sacrament; and after him Pope Honorius 3, the yeere 1220, decreed that the elementis fould be lifted vp be the preeft, adored be the people, and keepid in a box, and on the box fould be this inferiptioune:—

" Hic Deum adora: item flecte genu: pixis hic venerabilis hofpite Christo."

And Doctor Sutliue, a learnid and grave divine, contra Bellarminum de Ceremoniis Miffæ, fayis, fol. 99, 100, 101, "Omnes hæ ceremoniæ ex recentiorum Miffialium formulis authoritatem et originem habent." Then he enumberis amongis the reft, "Et coram eis genuflexiones.

"Item nufquam certe legimus genua flectenda effa coram Sacramento, nifi in miffalibus et libris ritualibus.

"Item nihil turpius quam genua coram Sacramento flectere.

"Item nufquam legimus inclinationem corporis et genuum incurvationem coram Sacramento indicium effe; humilitatis aut aliquos viros fanctos aut pios fe coram Sacramento panis aut calicis dominici vel corpora fua inclinaffe."

And Bellarmine, a man as feemis mightie for transfubstantiatione, wreittis, lib. 4. cap. 30, "De Eucharistia melius discunt rudiores in Eucharistia Sacramento vere esse Christum præsentem; et proinde falsam esse hæreticorum doctrinam ex publica adoratione totius ecclesiæ, et honore illo eximio qui huic Sacramento exhibetur, quam ex multis concionibus." And thairsoir in another place he sayis, "Non potest carere suspicione idolatriæ capere eucharistiam genuslexione, nisi concedatur transfubstantiatio."

Thus, I have fimply obeyed your majefties command, in fetting doun my opinioun of thefe Articles, which I befeech your majeftie to accept in good pairt, and to amend whair any thing is amifle, be your loveing informatione; remembering how, according to knawledge and abilitie, I have followid your maieftie before, and is now als readie to follow as euer I was (whatfoeuer repoirtis be made of me); and fall, Godwilling, according to my knawledge, follow the fame courfe to the end; and

thairfoir needis bot informatione and confirmatione, that I may proceed, quhich nowe I attend.

Pardone me now, Ser, to renew my requeaft for your maiefties præcept to your thefaurer to pas my fonns gift, which fo lovingly your maiefties felf hath paffed; and to befeeche your maieftie, in any reportis that fall be made of me, to keepe ane eare free for my anfure, whilk will incourage me to goe on in the fervice of fo loving a maifter. So, humblie taking my leefe, I recommend your maiefties facred perfone, familie and eftate, to the bleffing and protectioun of God. Frome Edinburgh, this 5 off Nouember, the day of your maiefties most gracious delyuerance from the gunnpoulder treasone of conspyred Papists, 1617.

Your Maiesties awine old and trustie feruitour,

MR P. GALLOWAY.

[Indorfed:]
To his Maieftie.
Mr Patrik Galloway his judgment
anent the 5 Articles of Perthe.

5 Novemb. 1617.

CLXXI.—OLIVER ST JOHN TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 25, 1617.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

This noble man, the Lord Cromwell,* beinge defirous to kiffe your maiefties princelie handes, defires to go accompanied with my letters,

 Thomas fourth Lord Cromwell, and great-grandson of the celebrated Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, beheaded by Henry VIII. in the year 1540. This nobleman was in 1625 created Viscount Lecale, and in

which I could not denve vnto him, findinge his caryadge here to be very noble, and himfelfe apte and likely to live to be a worthie fervant to your maiestie. He hath humblie befought, that I would make knowne vnto your maiestie his conformitye to your maiesties princely directionnes, in a controversie concerning Mr Alexander Julius and Adam Abercromney, wherein, although it was manifest that the state the late Lord Cromwell, his father, had in those landes, was fuch as he could not passe them away without doinge wronge to his fonne, and that by the lawe he was not compellable to confirme the graunt that his father had made to Mr Julius and Abercromney; yet, in obedience of your maiesties princelie pleafure, he hath affured vnto them a ffee-farme in those landes, to his hinderance of thirtie or fortie poundis a yeare of his inheritance. Thus much, at his humble defire, I have prefumed to relate to your facred maiestie, that his promptnes to obeye your maiestie may appeare; leavinge him and his other occasions to your most royall pleasure. Humbly befeechinge the Almightie to bleffe your facred maieftie with longe life, and a profperous reigne over vs,

Your Maiesties humble and obedient subjecte and fervant,

Ol. St. John.*

Dublin, the xxvth of Nouember 1617.

To the Kinges most Sacred Maiestie.

1644 Earl of Ardglass in Ireland, where his property was situated, his father having sold all his English estates.

11e died in 1653. The Irish Earldom and Viscountcy became extinct by the death of Vere Essex, seventh
Baron Cromwell, and fourth Earl of Ardglass, without issue male, upon the 26th November 1687. The
English Barony has remained dormant.

Succeeded his father as fourth-Lord St John-in 1618, and was created, December 28, 1624, Earl of Bolingbroke.

CLXXII.—ANNE COUNTESS OF ARGYLL* TO JOHN MURRAY.

[1617?]

SER,

You shal vnderstand ther is on James Ratrey, who now is in your farvies, that one was in myne, tel his falfevod pot him awaye. I will now fpeke it, altho euer finc, I have byn content to confele it, in hope of amendment. Ther is on Dromand, who now is his wife, that had in tryft and keepinge of myne, fundrye thinges to the valve of five hyndreth povnd or ther aboutis. After shee knew of my determynacion in goinge to Scotland, flee and hee togeather, fecretly by nyght, convayed the favd goods ovt of my hovfe, and had not byn fcarce a fortnyght ther bot fhee mayd herfelfe an occasion, by her evel tonge, to com hear agayn. Within fev wiekes after, my lord fent a gentelman with money to paye fum deptis he was owinge in London. Shee and her hysband would not let the gentelman paye the money, bot would have it in their owne hand, and went to every credetor and pyrfuaded them it was but defprat deapt, and would have had them taken, fum halfe, fum a quarter of ther money, to my lordes great dishonor. If you dout of this, Sir, I shal fend the men themselucs to testyfie it. The same gentelman I desired to reseve her charge, but shee refyfed it, and answred she would keepe it tel my owne cominge, which shee thoughte would never haue byn: But when fhee fa mee come, and that fhee could get no oather excyfe, fhee favd shee with hild them for deapt I was owinge her. I defired to know for what: but shee mayd a byl to mee which she movght have byn shure non would have harkend to aboue the age of twive in that fashion. What I myght have dun of my owne good will, mor then her defart, after the

[•] There is no date either to this or the succeeding letter. The writer, Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, was the second wife of Archibald Earl of Argyle, who entered the service of Philip III. of Spain, and became a Roman Catholic in 1618, much to the vexation of his relatives. Ilis Lady was a Papist herself, and made him a convert. He did not return to England till 1638, in which year he died at London, aged about 62.

delivrie of my thinges, flee myght haue put to my owne cortefye, if theyr meninge had not byn to have kepte them ftile; but that cannot be as longe as ther is a kinge and laves in the cuntrey. I will tryble you, Ser, no fyrther with my tedyys leater, whos end is to tel you the tryth, fearinge you flovld have byn abyfed by falfe informacion, which I defire non theuld bee that I wish al honor and hapynes to, as on that shall ever remayn

Your louinge frind to dispose of,

A. ARGYLE.

To my verae good frind, Mre Morey, of his Magistyes Bed Chamber.

CLXXIII.—THE COUNTESS OF ARGYLE TO JOHN MURRAY.

SER.

I make no question, knowinge the trvth, that you would eather mayntayne him or anye oather in fo vild a accion; but knowinge of ould the skope of falfnes and disemulacion of his tonge hath mayd mee this fare to trubuel you. You desired, Ser, by your leter, to vnderstand further of his behavyore in the tyme he was with my lord. It wear vnsemlye to wright every thinge in partikiler what hee dyd; but this fare I will saye, that what a man could do in thest, he lest not vndune. Hee had for a while the kepinge of my lordes purse, but his falswod in that extended so fare, that it was soon perseved halse a year after his goinge aweye, my lord was saine to paye thinges hee had taken in trost, which my lord befor had payd redye money to him for. When these greter

trickes fayld him, hee would not flicke to pilfer anye thinge hee could conveniently. Onc I toke him with the maner, and mayd him laye it downe agayne. I have hard diveres report of his ftelinge money out of the pocketes, and that they have taken him with the maner, but I will fpeke nothinge of fartentye but that which I have fene and knowes my felfe vpon my chargies; yet, altho on would thinke it were to much for on to beare paciently, yet the showe of his fayned repentanc was fo great, that I protest, Ser, I neuer dyd so mych as reuele it to anye, tel now this last vileny of his hath mayd mee thinke I have confeled it to longe. For anye thinge, Ser, that hath latly hapned, this berar, who hath byne witnes to most part of there procidinges, can tel, if you plese to give him leve, the tryth: he beares a honeft nam. I hope he shal not lye in anyething. So, I will no longer, Ser, be trubelfom to you to explayn the great ronge I have refeued, which I am flur is vnmatchabel in that kinde, and leue al to your nobvel and wife confederation, and fhal now and euer remayne

Your most ashured frind to despose of,

A. ARGYLL.

To my assured frinde, Mr Murey, of his Magistys Bed Chamber.

CLXXIV.—SIR JAMES LUNDIE TO KING JAMES VI.
April 8, 1618.

Most gracious Souerane,

It may pleas your most excellent maiestie, vmquhile King Williame, of worthie memorie, for the lufe wiche he caryit towardis his

fone naturall, my prediceffour, callit Sir Robert,* thairefter callit Sir Robert of Lundy be King Alexander the Second, gaue all and haill the barony of Lundy, of whome the Lairdis of Lundy hes linialie descendit, as oure charteris and evidentis dois record; and evir fince the dayis of King Williame, be the space of foure hundreth, fyftie and fyve yeiris, we have bene in peciable possession of our awin teindis, quhill now laitlie, that the Laird of Largo hes procurit the kirk of Largo, erectit in ane laick patronage, quha intendis most rigorouslie to leid oure teindis: albeit that I have causit deall with him thir fevin yeiris bigane for ane new tak of oure awin teindis, quhairunto he will nawayis condifcend be ony perfuafioun or reafonable offer; bot hes intendit actioun aganis ws for fpoliatioun thairof, whairintill be the rigour of law he is liklie to prevale. The haill Senatouris of your maiefties Colledge of Justice thinkis it agreble with reason and conscience that we fuld still continew in possesfioun of our awin teindis, feing we ar fa lang kyndlie takifmen and poffeffouris thairof; and I am fullie refolvit that thair is no mean to hold me in possession of the faidis teindis, bot that it wald pleas your most excellent maieftie to direct ane lettre to the Lordis of your hienes College of Juftice, to eaus ws both fubmitt that mater to thame, anent quhat takis the Laird of Largo fall give of our awin teindis, and quhat fall be gevin thairfoir. This I am most willing to do. It is weill knowin to your maiestie quhat querrellis and deidlie feidis hes followit vpoun rigourous teinding within your hienes kingdome of Scotland, whiche hes bene the ruine of mony houses thairof. Most humlic, thairfoir, beseiking your gracious maieftie to prevent ws be your hienes letter to the Lordis of your maiefties College of Juffice, thus in all humilitie expecting your

[•] Sir George Mackenzie, in his MS. Genealogical Collections, observes, in reference to the Laird of Lundie, "His predecessor was Robert de Lunden, naturall son to King William, so surnamed because begotten within the city of London, in England, as some say, or from their lands in Fyfe, which be got from the King, as others [say]. I haue sein him frequently designed by that King, amongst the witnesses in his chartours, 'Roberto de London, filio nostro,' and in ane chartour by King William to the Erle of Stratherne, amongst the witnesses, Joanne de London, filio nostro, the Foresteric of Tith, near Dunfermling, which thereafter the said Robert giues to the abbacy, and designs himself filius Regis Scotiæ."

maiefties most gracious will and intercessioun in this point, I most humlie tak my leve, kissing, with all reverence and humilitie, your most gracious hand.

Your Maiesties most humle and obedient fubiest and fervitour,

SR JAMES LUNDIE.

Edinburgh, the 8 of Aprile 1618.

To his most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXV.—HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE COUNCIL. [1618?]

WHEREAS by your lettre vnto vs, yee make mention of the regrete that the magistrates of Edinburgh made anent this ordinance, and proclamation craued to be made that it should not be lawfull to laden anie of the commodities of marchandife of that our kingdome in forevne bottomis, fo long as anie of our owne contrie shippes remayne vnfreighted: to this wee ansuer, that wee are affured that yee remember nocht what was done and concluded in that busines, in our prefence the last day that wee fat at our counfell table in Scotlande, which was this, that as for the generall, it wes directlie agreed in thefe verie termes that yee fette doune in your lettre, without one contrarie vote, and wee our felfe did propounde the question; but becaus, it is true, that manie particulair questions might refulte vpon this grounde, which wolde require furder time to be digefted and debated, those thinges were lefte to a furder time, and a full hearing of both marchandes and mariners. Wee, therefor, for our parte, can fee no reason to change our former resolution in generall; and as for the difcontentment of the magistrates, wee haue learned to distinguish betwixt the particulare well of the marchantes, and the well of the wholle kingdome; nether are wee anie thing feard by that refolution alledged to be taken in France, for wee fee no reason whie the wine should be transported to Scotland in French bottomes, fince wee do affuredlie know the French wine to be a commoditie of that nature, as France must be faine to ytter once a yeare in anie bottomes, being a commoditie that they must yearlie vente, or elfe be extreme loofers. And vpon the other parte, naturall reason teacheth vs that Scotlande being a parte of an Ile, cannot be maynteyned nor preferued withoute shipping, and shipping cannot be mayteyned without employment, and the verie law of nature teacheth eueric forte of corporation, kingdome, or contrie, first, to fette themselues and their owne veffeles on worke befor they employe anic ftranger. For our parte, therefor, yee may give our counfell there full affurance that no argument can or shalbe made against the generall conclusion which our felfe tooke there, that shalbe hable to alter our resolution in this generall grounde, no more then to make vs beleiue that day is nighte, and fire is colde. But as for the particulare conditions and reftrictions, which at our being there wee lefte to be debated at full leafour, is, that that courfe shall still be kepte; and in caife, upon the hearing of the marchantis and mariners, anie fuch question shall arise vpon the particulare, as may distracte our counfell in divers opinions, then and in that cafe our counfell thall do well to fende vs thefe controuerted heades, together with their opinions or doubtes therevpon. As for your other pointe of your lettre, wee neede give no other answer, then that wee approve verie well the order which the counfell hath taken in the fame.

[Indorfed:]
His Majesties Answere, dited by him felfe, concerning transporting goodes in strange bottomes.

CLXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY. FEBRUARY 19, 1619.

RYGHT HONORABILL COUSIN,

I have hithertill contineued to mak anfuir to ziours of the 26th Januar, that I micht fee fuim progres in ziour befines, all this oulke has bein beftowed in ziour actions, in feffion with the vaffals and fewars in Anandell; all is done to ziour advocatts contentment. With Dundranane all donne: alfo, almost as ziour actions ar rasonabill, su I can nocht say to ziou, bot zie have als greate savour off all our breether in fession* as onye honest man can wish. I knaw particulars heiranent will be mair particularlie writtin to ziou be ziour doars.

Jiour actioun with Bonitoun fall be, God willing, donne this next onlke, for I called the other actions first in order, as I was defired be jiour agent, James Hamiltoune.† All the occurrents I can write to jou [are], our Bischoppe of Galloway is departed this lyst.‡ Mr Robert Bruce, minister, according to his facred majesties royall direction, is confined to his awin house, and ane mile about.

Nocht ellis at this prefent, bot my deutie remembered to ziour good

• Murray could not fail to be in high favour with the judges. He had succeeded the Earl of Dunbar in the management of Scotish affairs, and was all-powerful; so much so, that the prondest of the Scotish nobility sought his patronage.

t William Coupar, a learned and excellent man. He died 15th February 1619.

[†] The notion of a Lord Chancellor advisiog and superintending the management of the law proceedings of a friend is somewhat inconsistent with modern ideas of judicial character. There is too much reason to believe, from the evidence that has come down to us, that the administration of justice in Scotland then, and for nearly a century afterwards, was very corrupt. At a later period, Lord Balcarres positively asserts that the leading men of his time got persons thrust in as judges, for the express purpose of influencing the decisions in those cases in which their patrons were personally interested. It is remarkable, that, at the date of Lord Dunfermline's epistle, the English judges were not so subservient as their northern brethren seem to have been; and there is a letter preserved in the Abbotsford Miscellany, in which Sir Henry Montagn, afterwards Earl of Manchester, solicits two of the judges to favour a man who had been one of the King's falconers, but who was in prison on a charge of felony. These upright men disregarded the application, and the culprit having been convicted, they shewed him no favour, but ordered his instant execution, which, to Sir Henry's great annoyance (as he had interfered to gratify the King), actually took place. See p. 212.

half mairaw,* wiffis ziow baith all ziours all happines and contentement.

Ziour louing Coufing at command,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 19 Febr. 1619.

To my weilbeloued Coufen, Mr Murray of Lochmaben, off his facred Maiestie Bedchalmer.

CLXXVII.—NOTE OF THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.
August 25, 1619.

Halyruideous, xxv. August 1619.

The mater anent the navigatioun and fraughting of strangearis shippis wes this day at grite lenthe agitat befoir the counsell, and the haill obiectionis, ansueris, replyis, and duplyis, maid thairanent in write wer all red, and the pairtyis hard thairupoun; and after lang contestatioun on ather syde, the mater wes drawne to tua pointis, to witt, the discussing of the difficulteis and impedimentis proponned anent the easterline trade, quhilk is the cheif point now contrauertit, and the fetting doun of the frauchtis and conditionis of goode and deutifull service on the pairt of the marinaris to and fra France, Spayne, and Flanders; and for this purpois, the marcheantis and marinaris hes nominat aucht on ather syde to conveene and meet at Edinburgh, vpoun the xiii day of September now approtcheing, with my Lord President and some otheris of the counsail appointit for that bussynes, quho ar to deale thairin, and to sie yss

with mutuall confent the point contrauertit may be broght to ony goode conclusion, and thay ar to reporte thair proceding to the counfail, vpoun the xv day of the faid moneth of September, at quhilk tyme this mater wilbe putt to a point without forder delay.*

Thair wes ane other point contrauertit, anent the portage, quhilk is difcuffit by difchairgeing of all vnfreemen to haif portage.

The particulair recommendit be his maieftie to the counfaill, anent the refyneing of fugair, is thought, in the generall, to be very reafounable; and yitt for remoucing of all questioun and obiectionis that may be proponned aganis the expediencie of the fame, the counfaill hes appointit fome of thair nomber to confer thair upoun, and to reporte thair opinion thairanent.

The particulair anent the reffett of Egyptianis, whilk wes lykwayes recommendit be his maieftie, hes reffauit this answer, to witt, that yf the persone recommendit be his maieftie will call the ressettaris of thir Egiptianis befoir his maiesteis thesaurair, and deputie thesaurair, and suche otheris of the counsell as falbe adjoyned vnto thame, and will furneis probatioun aganis thame, that thay fall haif the ane halff of the escheatis and penalteis of the personis that falbe convict of the faid refett.

The patent grantit be his maiestie to Gilbert Dik for the Booke of Commoun Prayer is exped.

The pouder boughte in Danfkin for his maieftie being taken to the vfe of the King of Denmark; and the counfell having written to him, defiring that it mighte be reflored to the marchant who had boughte it for his maiefties vfe, no order was taken in the mater; and, therefor, it is humblic defired that his maieftie may be pleafed to require his brother, the King of Denmark, to take infte freindlie order in the busines, and to permitte the marchantes of this contrie to transporte thair pouder and other lawfull wares, withoute any trouble or impediment in his boundes.

^{*} No note of the proceedings in September occurs among Sir James Balfour's MSS., but see Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 347.

CLXXVIII.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI. [1620?]

MAY IT PLAES YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I kno that begging is ane ordinar phrase for all men that ar futers for thee kings liberalitie, and of this fort I have beine on, this long tyme, altho I haue as yit come no fpeid, bot nou, Sir, I am a begger of ane vther kynd, if nobilitie vill permit pouerty to expresse itself in thee hyest degree, or if your maiestic can think me poore, that hes nather maete, fyre, clothes, monny, nor credit. I am perfuadit your maiestie will think this are strainge chainge from that of my predicessours, who war rather hellpfull and lenners to vthers, then borrouers from any: fome pairt of thair thankfullnes your maiestie hes seine, alltho not as thay wifcht. Whoofoeuer, God hes nou layde his correcting hand on me, vit can I plaede nothing bot vnwirthines, and becaus kings ar called gods, it may be your majestie wald take euill (thee word of deferuing), I will forbaer to vie that too, only, Sir, geiue me leiue to begge your charatie, in fuch miffour as it fall placfe your majeftic best to extend thee fame, according to my prefent mifery, vntill your maiestie may be plaesd to vie your liberalitie according to your gratius promeife. Thus, remitting all to your maiesteis gratius consideration, I kisse your majesties hands.

Your Majesteis most humble and obedient subject and fervant,

WILL: TULLIBARDINE.*

[No date.t]

To his most facreid Maiestie.

[•] William, second Earl of Tullibardine. See letter from him to John Murray, p. 280. He died in the year 1626. He married Lady Dorothea Stewart, eldest daughter of John, fifth Earl of Atholl, by whom he had one son, John, whose right to the title of Atholl was confirmed by Charles 1, 17th February 1629.

[†] Probably written in the year 1620.

CLXXIX.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI. [1620?]

PLEIS YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I haue fo long expectid your maiefteis gratius fauour, for releiffe of my diftreffid efteat, that nou I am vtterly ondone, for I haue fould all my fathers patrimony, I haue ingadgd all the efteat off Atholl, and I haue bond my freinds heir and in Scotland for great foumes off monny, that I dar not go home, and hardy byde heir vithout your maiefteis prefent hellpe. I befeische your maieftei not to be displeide that I propone on off theis vuertours; the making off ane Inglische barroune or tua thousand pounds sterling out off your Escheker heir, vith sex thousand punds sterling off the taxatione of Scotland; or ells that your maieftie vill geiue me leiue to sell my stylle of Tullibardine to ane Inglische man.

Sir, it is not prefumtione that moues me, bot extreme neceffitie; and I houpe your maiestie will take it so, vtheruayis I vill be forst to sell all, and so no moir to be your subject, althoo all misereis and banisment sall neuer make me leue to be

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient feruant,

TULLIBARDINE.

To his facreide Maieftie.*

There is no date to this letter. It was probably written not long after the preceding one. It presents
a singular picture of the extreme poverty of this Scotish nobleman, who seems willing to sell his title even
to an Englishman, in order that he may obtain the means of subsistence.

CLXXX.—KING JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.
[No Date.]

RIGHTE TRUSTIE AND RIGHTE WELLBILOUED CUSENS AND COUNSELLORS, AND RIGHTE TRUSTIE AND WELLBE-LOVED COUNSELLORS.

We greete you well. Whereas by reafons of those troubles in France, a verie great nomber of people professing oure religione haue lofte their fortunes in that realme, and for thair fafetic fledde with their wives, childrene, and families into this, having no other meanes of mayntinanee, fauinge charitie of well disposed people, wee haue bene pleafed, oute of our royall commiseration of their distressed estate, to permitte a voluntarie contribution to be leuied in this our kingdom, frome fuch as oute of their christian charitie shalbe disposed to contribute to their releefe; and although wee are not ignorant of the fmall ftore of monie prefentlie to be founde in that our kingdome, yet in fo pitifull a cafe, wee haue bene pleafed to yealde to the humble fuite of the deputies of the French Church here, who have moste humblie befoughte vs that the volunterie helpe of well difpof'd people there may likewife be craued and collected, it is therefor our pleafor that yee give direction to the Archbyschoppes to write to the Byschoppes of their prouinces, to recommende the matter to the ministers of their dioceses, and they to recommende it to the charitable deuotion of their particular flockes, and fuch moire as schalbe leuied for that effect, to be by the minister of each parroch broughte to his ordinance, and by him to the Archbishop.

CLXXXI.—ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF HUME AND JOHN STEWART. APRIL 12, 1620.

ARTICLES of Agriement fet downe by his maieflie, and agreit to by James Erle of Hume, and the Countes of Hume, his mothir, for hir entres, on the ane pairt; and Johne Stewart, fone to Frances, fumtyme Erle Bothwell, on the vther pairt, for a finall determination of all difference and contraversie between thame, concerning the Abbacie of Coldingham, to be extendit, and past in the best forme of securitie that can be devysed for that effect, by his maieflies Chanceller, President, and Advocat, with advyse of both the pairties lawers.

First, That the said erle and his mother, for hir entres, dispone, renunce, and transfer in the favoures of the said Johne, his airis, affignyis, and successouris, all richt, entres, and possession, quhilk they have or may claime, to ane pairt of the landis and teindis of the said abbacie, pendicle and pertinent thairof, to which Johne Stewart wes provyedit, and had richt befoir his said satheris forfaltour; with warrandice from ther awin proper sactis and deidis allenerlie, done or to be done since the deceis of Alexander, last Erle off Home. That is to say, that they have nethir maid nor sall mak ane other richt or translatioun of the title and possession, that that dispositioun salbe nowyse interpreted nor accompted anie deid done by them, quhairby they or anie of them may be

called or perfewed at the inftance of the faid Johne or his foirfaidis, or anie other pairtie quhatfumever, for warrandice of anie anterior takis or richtis, fet, maid, or granted be the faid Erle of Hume; bot that the faid Johne Stewart, his airis and fucceffouris, fall warrand and relieve the prefent erle and countes, thair airis and fucceffouris, of all warrandice quhilk may follow, be occasione of these presentis, at the instance of quhatfumevir persones haueing or pretending richt from the faid late Erle off Home: Provyiding alweyis, that the grant heiroff fall nowyse prejudge the said Johne in his awin anteriour richtis, nor bind him in anie fort to warrand, ratifie, or approve the said deidis done be the said late Erle of Home; bot that it salbe lawfull to him to reduce and annull the same be vertew of his forsaid anteriour richtes be law.

That therfoir the faid Johne fall give perfite fecuritie to the faid Erle of Home, for peyment to him of the fowme off fourtie eight thoufand pundis Scottis, in maner and at the termes after following: viz. off ane fourt pairt thairoff, being tuell thousand pundis money foirfaid, at Mertimes nixtocum in this inftant zeir of God 1620; of vther tuell thousand pundis at Whitfonday; and of ane thrid 12 thousand pundis at Mertimes thairefter 1621; and of the last tuell thousand pundis, in full and compleit payment of the foirfaid fowme of 48000 pundis, at the terme of Witfonday 1622, with vfuall penalties for ilk termes failzie: And to the effect that the faid late Erle of Home's debtis dew be bandis, and as 5it vnreleivet, being fatisfiet and pevit furth off the first end of the faid fowme, and ane competent proportioun of the profeit thairoff zeirlie allowit to the faid countes, for recompense of the lose quhilk scho fall sustene by this transactioun in quyteing onie thing scho had richt to for her lyftyme, the fupplus thairoff may be maid furthcuming to the faid Erle of Home, and his airis of his awin bodie, and failzeing therof, to the faid erles fifteris, thair airis and affigneyis: And that the famyn may be dewlie imployit for his and thair best profeit, it is his maiesties plifour, that the faid lordis caus fufficient fecuritie be maid be the faid countes, ather be finding of cautioun, or, if that cannot be becaus feho is a ftranger, be binding of hir conjunctiee for performeance of the famyn.

That the faid Johne lykweyis bind and obleis his haill landis, teindis, and vtheris aperteining to him of the faid abbacie, for peyment to the faid erle, and his aires male of his bodie, zeirlie of the fowme off thrie thowfand fex hundreth pundis Scotis, at tua termes in the zeir, Witfonday and Mertimes, be equall portiounes, the first termes peyment to be reuled be his entrie, and fet downe be the faid lordis, according to the custum and practife in the countrey in the lyke caiffis. Provyiding alweyis, that if it fall happen the faid erle to die without airis male gotting of his awin bodie, that the faid annuitie of thrie thowfand fax hundreth pundis Scottis fall returne to the faid Johne, and remane with him and his foirfaidis heritablie.

That the faid Johne fet and grant takis of the teindis of Ald Cambes and Fastcastell to the faid erle, and the airis male of his bodie, he and they defaceing and allowing to the faid Johne and his foirfaidis zeirly, of the faid annuitie of thrie thousand fax hundreth pundis Scottis, so much as by dew estimatioun falbe fund equivalent to the zeirlie value of the faidis teindis; with this provisioun, that failling airis male of the faid erles awin bodie, the faidis takis fall furthwith expyre and be null of them felfis, and the richt of the faidis teindis returne to the faid Johne and his foirfaidis, to be intromettit with and difponit vpon at ther plifour: And if the faidis pairties at ther appeirance befoir the faidis lordis do not agrie vpon the zeirlie worth of the faidis teindis, that ilk of thame in that cafe chofe and nominat tuo freindis to try and vpon oath to informe the faidis lordis of the trew value of the fame; and that accordinglie they ordane a proportionable defalcation to be expressive conditioned and mentioned in the faidis takis, quhilk gif the faid erle refuse to condifcend to, that then it falbe lawfull to the faid Johne and his foirfaidis to intromet with the faidis teindis, and difpone therupon at their plifour, they paying in that cace zeirlie the foirfaid haill fowme of thrie thoufand fax hundreth pundis Scottis money.

That Johne Stewart difcharge the faid erle, his faid mother, and ther foirfaidis, of all byrun dewties and profeitis of the faid abbacie fince the late Erle Homes poffession therof; provyiding alweyis, that (if the afoir-

namet lordis fall find it requifite and necessar for the faid Johne his bettir fecuritie) the faid erle be in that cace bund at his majoritie to ratific and approve the dispositionnes and fecurities to be now maid in favouris of the faid Johne and his foirfaidis, and that, if the faid erle resust to do the fame, it falbe lawfull to the faid Johne and his foirfaidis, nochtwithstanding the faid discharge, to call and perfew, be ordour of law, for the faidis byrunis: And lykweyis, that, in cace of his faid resuiseisall, the takis ordaned, as faid is, to be set to him, fall fall, and be null in themselstis, and the faid Johne fred, from thencessurth, of all forther peyment of the faid annuitie of thrie thousand fax hundreth pundis money foirfaid, and the faid erle and his foirfaidis be bund and obleist in repeyment of the foirfaid sowme of fourtie aucht thousand pundis Scottis to the faid Johne and his foirfaidis.

That, for the better fecuring and estableifing of the said Johne and his foirsaidis in the heritable richt and possession of the said abbacie, and pertinentis of the same, quherunto he wes provyidit befoir his said late satheris fall, the saidis lordis, with advyse of his laweris, caus forme and send to his maiestic such new richtis and securities, or confirmationnes and ratificationnes of his auld richtis, conteining in them ane erection of the abbacie to him and his foirsaidis (bot without title and dignitie of a lord), as, in ther jugement, they sall think moist effectuall to secure him and them of the same.

Lastlie, It is his maiesties plifour, that, for the spidier performance of the premiss, baith the saidis pairties fall repair to his maiesties kingdome of Scotland betuene the date heirost and the day off nixtocum, that so they may the moir convenientlie meit with the foirnamet lordis, to the effect foirsaid; and in taikin of ther willing consent to the fulfilling of the haill premiss, to these presentis, signed by his maiestie, both the saidis pairties haue set ther handis: At Whytehall and St Mertenes Lane, the tuelst and auchteint dayis of Apryle 1620, befoir Archibald Prymrois and Duncane Prymrois, and Mr Patrik Hammiltoun, witnes to Johne Stewartes subscriptioun, and Mr Edward Wrae, off his ma-

iefties bedchalmer, and James Dowglas, witnes to the Countes of Homes. Sic fubfcribitur,

A. Home.

Edward Wray, witues to the Countes of Homes fubfcriptioun. James Dowglas, witnes to hir fubfcriptioun.* J. STEUART.

Archibald Prymrois, witnes to Johne Stewartes fubfcriptioun. Duncane Prymrois, witnes to his fubfcriptione.

CLXXXII.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

June 30, 1620.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

It is litle paft a yeare fence forrane moneyes, by proclamatione, wer dischardged to have cours within this realme; bott that prohibitione hes bred suche vniversal scarstie of moneyes throuhowt the whole kingdome, as your maiesteis subjectes of all fortis ar liklie thairby to recaue irreparable herme, geue sume speidy and tymous remedy be not provydit. Amongest a number of wther inconvenientis, your maiesteis cofferis heir ar maid so emptie, that I find great difficultie to gett whairwith to surneische moneyes for your maiesteis buildingis, and the wther necessarie and ordinarie burdingis, altho no part thairof wer to be employed for paymentis dew befoir Witsonday last; and geue the inconvenient sall continow and incres, your subjectis heir, of all rankis, wilbe rendered unable to performe thair dew feruice for your maiesteis honour, when it sall pleas God we have the happienes to sie your maiestei within this kingdome. It wilbe peraduentur objected aganes the humble petitione presented

^{. &}quot;It is lykeweyis signed by his Maiestie."

in name of the noblemen, burowes, and remanent fubicctis of this kingdome, whairanent your majestie hes a lettre frome the Lordis of Cownfell, that thair defyr wilbe preindiciall to your maiesteis benefeitt, arryfing frome the mynt, whairanent it will pleas your maiestie be informed, that, albeit for the space of ane half yeare efter the proclamatione, moneyes came by exchandge to the mynt hous moir abundantlie nor they did for a long tyme befoir, yet the frie proffeit thairof, and of all that cam in for the space of twa yeares (the bulgeoun payable by the merchantis excepted) did litle exceid the foume of fex or fevin thowfand merkis Scottis, as the compt laitlie maid by the maifter of the coingiehous doethe teftefie. Nor will the geving cours to fume spaces of forraine moneyes heir do preiudice to your maiesteis subiectis of England, whair these spaces, beand transported frome hence, will onlie ferue for bulzeoun, altho they pas in paymentis amongest your maiesteis subjectis heir. The difficultie I find to do your maiesteis seruice, by reasoun of the present searstie, with the earnest defyr I have that your maiesteis subjectis heir may be eased of fuche inconvenient, have moved me to prefent to your maiesteis princlie confideration these informall lynes, for the whiche I humblie craue your maiesteis pardoun, and will end with my humble prayer for your maiesteis long preservation in all healthe and happienes.

Your facred Maiesteis most humble and faithfull feruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinburgh, the last of June 1620.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXXIII.—MR H. BLYTH* TO THE REVEREND HENRY CHARTERIS.

DECEMBER 26, 1620.

MY DEIR AND MAIST LOVING BROTHER,

I hartlie wifhe to zow in the Lord Jefus, our common Saujour, the fweit affluence and joyfull increase of all spirituall happines with zour deir bedfellow and hopefull children. I haue bene and am in great langour defyring to heir of zour weilfair, and mervells ze wryt not to me, feing I forzeitt nocht zow as I haue occasioun, for ze are still in my remembrance, wishing it may pleife our good God I may have agayne the zour face, and iniov the fweitnes of our wonted christiane familiaritie. I [doubt] nocht, deir brother, bot ze remember me alfo, bot I wald have the testimonies of zour loving remembrance more frequent be 3our wryting to me, till it pleife our God to bring ws more neir to vther. As to my prefent estait, I preis my God it is tolerable. I am awayting in patience the iffew it fall pleis my heavenly Lord to fend of my troble, wherin my God hes wyflie difpofed. Albeit I think in vndeferued in regaird of all the inftruments wha hes concurred in the fam. I am expecting a relenting of this rigorous dealing, hoping also that be zour intercession with sic vther my weillwillers thair, the sam may be procured att St Androifs hands, be whais will, as I vnderstand, only I am deteined heir. I think it my dewte to omit no lawfull meane I may vie for my awin releif, and thairfor will renew my earnest requeift to 30w as my most special and loving brother and freind, to remember me as 3e find occaffioun, with the help of Mr Thomes, my father, and billie, Mr James King, and fic vthers 3e think meit in fpeiking St Androis for me, that I may have libertie ayther to cum hame agayne, or at least may haue a tyme granted to putt my diffordered affairs to a poynt, as I may within thir four or fyue dayes. I being in Channorie mett with the

^{*} Mr Henry Blyth, minister of the Canongate, on the 2d July 1619, was brought before the Court of High Commission—suspended from his ministry, and banished to Inverness by the King's orders. See an account of his troubles in the printed edition of Calderwood's Church History, pp. 731 and 735.

Bishop of Ros,* wha professis great kyndnes to me, and willed me to wryt my felf to St Androis, quhilk he thinks wald effectuat muche, for he tells me it may be that St Androist flormes, and thinks I dort that wryts not to him my felf. Trewlie I think not ill of the overture, for my not wryting to St Androis aryfes of na contempt, and if that meane may do good I mind not to neglect it. The Bishop of Ros, out of his love to me, quhilk he professis, hes drawn vp a minute according to the quhilk I fuld frame my letter to St Androis. When I wryt it I fall fend 30w the copie. In the meane tyme, do ze as the Lord fall prefent occasioun, and be not fa flaw in wryting to me anent that, or ony other purpose 3e pleis, for nothing will cum fra 30w quhilk will not be most acceptable to me. My jewell is weill, all preifes to God, and hes hir hartlie commendatioun to 50w, and her fweit kymmer and fifter, Helene, hes bene maift dangerouslie discased thir 18 weeks, as I dowt not ze have hard, bot in the Lords gracious mercy is recovered. All the rest of the barines hes had the fluxe thir many days, bot I hope without prejudice of thair health. The berars haft cutts me fhort. I pray 30w remember all our freinds, namely, zour honest mother-in-law, zour brothir, and Mr Thomes Sydferf. He wrytes not to me, and I have fmall purpos to him bot commendatiouns, quhilk I pray 30u mak in my name. The grace of the Lord Jefus be with 30w.

Jour loving brothir, in all I may in the Lord Jefus,

MR. H. BLYTHE.

Invernefs, 26 Decemb: 1620.

To my maift loving and deir Brothir, Mr Henrie Charteris, Minister of the Evangell, at Edinburt, thes.‡

Patrick Lyndesay, advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613, translated to the Archbishoprick of Glasgow, 1633.

[†] Archbishop Spottiswood.

[‡] Communicated by Mr David Laing. The original letter had been pasted upon the boards of a book to strengthen the binding.

CLXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY. JANUARY 30, 1621.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND Cousing,

I directed ane pacquett to ziow 9 inftant, quhilk I lang to onderstand that zie refaued, because I directed the same at Mr Thomas Henderson his defire, and with his lettirs to ziow. Our Archibischioppe of St Androis is going thair to Court, in this terriblic eiuill waddir, at the greate entreatie off all the nobilitie was heir at this conventioun, to giue his facred maiestie, in name of all, all possibill satisfactioun. I man requeift ziow alfo, in name of all, and my felf alfo, to affift the faid lord bifchioppe be all ziour best meanis, so he may be weill hard and accepted be his maiestie. I assure ziow, if his maiestie sall give eare to his ouvertures, and profecute fic course as he will propone, it will worke all for the bettir to his maiefties intentiouns. I hoipe my lord bifchioppe will latt his maiestie knaw I did for my awin pairt all I micht, to haue all at his maiefties wifs and will; fua I did in treuth, and, if ziow heir off onye other, I pray ziow anfuir for me, and latt me knaw it: I fall mak it cleir for ziour releiff and my awin. Mr Archibald Hamiltoun, called Doctour Hamiltoun, hes fhiawin me he was meikill behaldin to ziow guhen he was thair this last somer. He sh [iawis] also that he had ane promeis of his maiestie, as ziow knaw, off ane bifchioprick in Ireland; the bifchiopricke off Caffillis has required me to remembir ziow of the fame, for he onderstandis the prefent bischioppe* is werye weake, if he be nocht gone, and wald be thairfore remembred to his maiestie. I wald zie did him onye guid zie could, for I knaw na farder in the befines nor be him. He is minister of Paflay, and I knaw werve weill his father, ane werve honeft man, Claude off the Cochno; thairfore I remitt that to giowr awin wifdome, albet I wifs eiuer our pepill had all rafonabill and possibill helpe. I haue writtin to

Miler Magragh, a Franciscan friar, who, turning Protestant, was promoted to the see of Cashell in 1570.
 Ile died, aged 100 years, in 1622. He was succeeded by Malcolm Hamilton, and in 1630 Archibald Plamilton was translated from Killala to this Archbishoprick.
 Ile died at Stockholm in 1659, aged 80 years.

3iow fuim tymes to remembir 3iow helpe me to ane new poolke for the greate feale, bot hes had na anfuir fra 3iow 3it off the fame; nather is thair haift in the mater, bot I wifs it nocht for 3iett. I haue na farder to wryte to 3iow, other nor my awin and my half-marrowis maift hartlie commendations to 3iow and 3iour bedfallow. Sua wiffis 3iow baith and all 3iours all happines,

Jiour maift affectionat Cofing, to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Edinburgh, 30 Janr. 1621.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued Coufing, Jhone Murray off Lochmaben, in his facred Maiesties Bedchalmer.

CLXXXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF EDINBURGH TO JAMES VI.

April 6, 1621.

MAIST GRATIOUS AND DREAD SOUERANE,

As none of our endeuouris doe fatiffie ws till we find thame approved by your facred maiestie, so your maiesties trustie counsailour the Archibischop of Sanctandrois, vpone his returne haveing delyuerit to vs, to our inestimable conforte, your maiesties gratious constructioun of our meanest services in the rewllis of your royall affectioun, and for our furder incouragement in the work of draperie latelie intendit be vs, your maiesties grant of sindrie liberties and priveledgis, we can not bot in all

humilitie and fubmiffioun of myndis, rander to your maiestie all those facrifices of maift humble fubmiffioun and acknawledgement of your royall fauours, qubilk is dew to fo great, gratious, and wyfe a monarche; and humblie proftrate our felffes, and quhat we have in this world dearest to vs, at your facred feet to be difposed vpone. To this effect we have directed the bearar heirof, Maister Johne Hay, our clerk and commissioner, to your maieftie, and, with all, humblie intreate from your facred maiestie those supplies whiche we houped to haue restaued by your maiesties royall prefens (more then which nothing in earth can be pleafing to vs), quhairof we fall now be ecclipfed, if it fall not pleas your facred maiestie, under your royall hand, to give warrant to your maiesties estaites of parliament heir to be convened, to ratifie those grants whairwith your facred maiestie and your maist noble progenitouris hes formerlie beautified this your maiefties guid toun. For the quhilk, as we have nothing to rander bot which is dew, fo will we affure your maieftie we fall not value our lyffes nor our fortunes to mak your maiestie demonstratioun of our royall affectiounis, guhen we fall have the happienes of the occasioun to fchaw it; nather fall any thing be more in the lyne of our defyres, then that your maiesties dayis may be extendit to the periode of nature, the limites of your empyre to the boundis of your matchelesse wisdome and worth, that as in all royall furniture, fo in dominioun, your facred maiestie may surpasse all earthlie monarches. And sua, maist humblie craving pardoun for our prefumptioun, remitting quhat furder is to be faid to our commissioner, quhom your maiestie fall be pleased to trust on our behalfe, we fall euer reft

> Your Maiesties maist humble and obedient subjectis, The Provest and Baillies of Edinburgh,

D. AIKINHEID, PROVEST. ROBERT DOUGALL, BAILLIE. JHONE MAKNACHT, BAILLIE. W^M. Dick, Baillie. Hary Moresone, Baillie.

Edinburgh, 6 April 1621.

To his most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXXVI.—THE EARL OF MORTON TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1621.

MOST SACRED SQUERANE,

When the fight of a licence givin be your majeftie to Mr Alexander Coluill, for the freindis of the hous of Argyll,* to deal with that erle to try if we micht recall him from that euill cours wharin he hes plungit him felue, I, as on who, both by bluid and allyance, am oblifit to wifch the flanding of that hous, did wret to him to kno if he grundid him felue upon anie refons in that cours wich he had takin; as alfo, I laborit to fie if yet he was cum to that fence of him felue as to wifeh a retrait from his euill wayis: His aufuer cam flolie to me, and when I had it, I could gedder no uther thing by it, bot that he ferit I had no uther pouer bot by my kynd wifehis to procuir him a faif retrait. Heirupon I heue prefumit humble to beg your maieflies refolution, if without offence I may vet trauell with the Erle of Argyll to bring him to a just acknoledgement of his grait overficht, and that he may mak fuch offers of amendment as may be acceptable to your maiestie: and in my trauels to this effect, albeit I will stryue to seho my selue a kynd freind to him and to his hous, yet my gretest cair fall be, that I do no thing which may be unseimlie for

Your Majesties most faithful subject and humble feruitor,

Morton.+

Neuhous, 18 Apryl 1621.

To the King his most facred Majestie.

• The Earl of Argyle left his own country, took service under the King of Spain, and became a Papist. Us conversion, as we have previously remarked, was brought about by his second wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, a Roman Catholic lady. Craig of Rose-Craig has these lines on him:

Now Earle of Guile, and Lord Furlorn thou goes, Quitting thy prince, to serve his Spanish foes. No faith in plaids, no trost in Highland trews, Camelion like, they change to many hues.

+ William seventh Earl of Morton. He was horn in 1592, and died in his sixty-sixth year, 7th August

CLXXXVII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VL April 25, 1621.

SIR.

For obediens of 30ur maiesties comands delyuerit vnto me oy Sir Patrick Morray, I haive bein als caerfull as the shortness of tym vold fusser me to try the best mein for effectuating 30ur gracious plesor anent the makking of Glenammind* a forest, as this berar 30ur maiesties seruant can most particularlie shau 30u, quhat I can nott doo att this tym I shall very shortlie, I houp, rander 30u an account of; the greatest parts of all the forest most be of Sir Patricks aun lands, only this far I vill assur 30ur maiestie, thair is not in this kingdom so fitt a place for a forest. In this, or any thing els quhairin I can serue 30ur maiestie, I shall euer be reddie as my deutie binds me. Thus, ester the kissing of 30ur facred handis, I humblie rest

Jour Maiesties most houmble subject and feruitour,

MAR.

Alluay, the xxv of Apryll 1621.

To the Kings most excellent Maiestie.

1648. He suffered great pecuniary losses by his support of the royal cause during the great civil war, and was compelled to part with his noble property of Dalkeith—now a principal estate of the Buccleuch family. His sister, Lady Agnes, was the first wife of the Earl of Argyle.

· A picturesque valley in Perthshire, watered by the river Almond.

CLXXXVIII.—THE TREW INFORMATIOUN OF THE ACSIDENT FALLIN OUT
BETUIX DRUMLANGRIG AND CASSCHOGILL, VPON SATTURDAY THE
TUELFF DAY OF MAY, 1621 YEIRE.

In the first, It is to be rememberit, that the landis of Airdoche and Cnokcone, pertening to Dauid Douglas, brother to the Laird of Drumlangrig, and the landis of Casschogile, pertening to Sir Robert Douglas, ar baith hauldin of the hous of Drumlangrig, and lyand within the barronie thair-off, merchand togidder, weill knawin, be ane walter passage dissending from the hight of the hill, and rining doune betwix thame. Thair being no guid mois vpon that pairt of the landis pertening to Casschogile, thay have oft and diverse times haid licence and tollerance of the Lairdis of Drumlangrig, as thair kinesmen and freindis, to cast and wine thair peattis and haill elding vpon the landis of Cnokconic, and diverse tymes as thai omittit thair dewtie to the hous of Drumlangrig, thay have beine interupit and impedit thairof, ay and qubill thai creavit libertie out of luiss frome the Lairdis of Drumlangrig to cast thair faidis peattis thair, qubilkes being creavit was ever granted.

It is to be rememberit, that this being the first yeir of the said Dauid Douglas his entrie to the said landis of Erdoche and Cnokconie, syne the deceis of his vinqubile saither, and expyring of his minoritie, he haueing the occasionne to go to Hawick to viseit his mother, quhilk is mair nor fourtie four mylnes distant fra the said landis, the said Dauid, efor his goeing, did desyre his brother James Douglas of Mouswall, to haue ane caire that he, his grund, nor tennentis, fould get na wrange befoir his returning home againe frome Hawick; as alsua he directit his tennentis, that gif Caschogill or his tennentis com to cast their peattis ypon the said landis, that that sould adverteise his brother the Laird of Mowswall thaiross, quha wald not suffer him nor thame to get wrang.

Vpon Wedinfday the nynt day of Maij, Caffchogills fervandis and

tenentis haueing cumed to the mofe of Cnokconie for casting of thair peitis, the Laird of Moufwall being advertess thairof, fend to the casteris and dischairgit thame in the said Dauid Douglas name, of the casting thairoff, without his licence, affuireing thame gif thai wald not stay, that thai wald be impedit and not suffered to cast the saidis peitis. Lykeas the said James Douglas of Moufwall, upon the morne thairester, come himself and ane other with him, and interruptit the said wark be cutting of sume of the peitis and casting of thame in the pot agane.

Vpon Setturday thairefter, being the twelff day of Maij, Caffchogill himfelf, with his fone Robert, his haill fervandis and tennentes, to the number of threttie fex men or thairby, with fuordis, hagbottis, lances, corne-forkis, and great kentis, by wemen and fallowis, com to the faid mofe per force be way of bangeftrie, to caft thair peitis. The Laird of Moufwall being adverteifit thairof, past and tuik with him the Laird of Ballaggine, ane freind of thairis, quhome he directit to deall with Caffchogill and his fone to ftay the faid wark, and not to doe it in contempt, bot to feik it out of luiff; quhilk being fua creavit thai fould get thair defyre; quhilk thai difdainefullie refuifit, and vtterit contemptuous speitches, declairing that thai fould caft thair peitis thair, guha wald, guha wald nocht. The faid James Douglas of Moufwall enterit in speitches with the faid Robert Douglas, requeifting him to move his father to leive of that contemptuous forme of docing, for eschewing of ane gretter skaithe, assureing him that he wald cum better fpeid efter ane luiffing mainer. The faid Robert than anfuerit him with the lyk difdainefull fpeitches as of befoire. The Laird of Moufwall, than ansuering and affuireing the faid Robert, gif his faither and he war of that mynde, thai fould not be fufferit to proceid in that wark.

This cuming to the Laird Drumlangrigis knawledge, he, for preventing of evill, directit the Laird of Dalzell, the Laird of Lage youngar, the Laird of Balagane, and Capitane Johnfoune, to deall with Caffchogill and his fone, to ftay that contemptuous warke, and to giff thame ane affuirance that giff thai wald feik libertie to caft peitis out of luiff, thai fould be fatiffeit: And efter he had directit thame away, he callit to rememberance the ftuburnes of the people of both fydis, and quhat authoritie

he had vnder the kingis maiestie to command thame, he heastit himselff efter the faidis comiffioneris to quhome he fehew his farder will, that gif Caffchogill could be moveit to ony reffone, he wald abfulctlic, as fuperiour to thame both, command his brother, and as the kingis maiesties officer and fhirreff, difchairge the wark for ane fchort tyme, that fume better ordour war takin thairwith. According to the qubilk, the faidis comissioneris proceidit, Drumlangrige being prefent, he as shirest, in maner foirfaid, in his maiefties name dischairgit the faid warke, and all being done in maner as faid is, was diffobeyit; the Laird of Moufwall heiring the contemptuous answer, viterit in thir speitches, as followes: " Ze ar over peart to diffobey the kingis maiefties chairge, quicklie pack you and goe away." Immediatlie thairefter, ane of Casschogillis fervandis with ane great kent, ftrak Capitane Johnstoune behind his bak, tua great ftraikis vpon the heid, quhilkis maid him fall deid to the grund with great loife of his bluide. And than the faid Robert Douglas prefentit ane bendit hagbote within thrie elnes to the Lairdis of Drumlangrigis his breift, quhilk at the pleafour of God mifgave. And immediatlie thairefter, the faid Robert of new morfit the faid hagbut, and prefentit hir agane to him, quhilk fehot and mift him, at the plefour of God; and Robert Dalzell, naturall fone to the Laird of Dalzell, was ftruken throughe the body with ane lance, quha cryit that he was flaine; and fume tua or thrie men was ftruken throughe thair clothis with lances, fua that the haill company thought that thai haid beine killit, and than thought it was tyme for thame to begine to defend thame felffis; quhairvpon the faid Robert Douglas, and vther thrie or foure of his folk being hurte, was put to flicht, and in the fleing the faid Robert fell, quhair the Laird of Drumlangrig chanefit to be narrest him, quha, notwithstanding of the formar offer, the faid Robert maid to him with the hagbute, not onlie fpairit to ftraik him with his awin handis, bot lykewayis difchairgit all the reft under the paine of thair lyffis to fleir him; utherwayis the faid Robert had beine flain, as the faid Robert and findrie vtheris of his company declaird. All this was done upon ane great fuddinetie efter the falling of Capitane Johnstoune, the prefenting of the hagbute to Drumlangrig, and Robert Dalzellis crying that he was flaine. Quhat hurt of bodie and lois

of bluid, Drumlangrigis few company hes, it war langesum to wryitt; for Casschogill war thryse als many of company as he.*

CLXXXIX.—JAMES VI. TO THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON. August 2, 1621.

RIGHTE TRUSTIE, &C.

Wee haue vnderftood by the letters of diuers perfons, your good and happie endeauoris in our feruice at this parliament, and how far your paines and trauelles have advanced our affaires. How yee have behaued your felfe, or what formes yee haue yfed wee know not, but your prouident and wife cariage hath bene highlic commended to vs by all fortes of people, both ecclefiafticall and laik, whereby as yee haue given vs exceeding contentment, fo wee can not choose but give you moste heartic thankes, not doubting but the finall event wilbe correspondent to fo good a beginning. And now, the Lord Ochiltrie returning into that our kingdome, who exhibited vnto vs certevn Articles concerning Sir Gedion Murray, it is requesite that the said Articles be tried, that if that man who is now deade have bene honeft, his fame may be cleared even in the grave wher he lyeth; as, on the contrarie, if he have bene difhoneft, it is no leffe important to our croune that he be difcouered. And if the enformer proue falfe, it is likwife materiall; for befides the perpetuall afperfion which will ly vpon him, it will caufe vs be the more warie in crediting him herafter. And because it is requesite that for triall of these Articles, commission be granted to certeyn persons for that effecte, the Lord Ochiltrie prefented vnto vs one which wee refused to figne, but haue thoughte good to require yow to caufe one be framed by the aduice of our counfell there, and speciallie of our advocate, in legal forme ac-

[•] Both Drumlangrig and Douglas were criminally indicted. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. iii. part ii. p. 500, but were never brought to trial—having accommodated matters amongst themselves, and having doubtlessly dealt with bis Majesty in the usual way.

cuftomed, or as shalbe requesite in this case; and that yee cause inserte therin with your felfe, our Chancellour, the Archbyshoppe of St Androws, the Earles of Mar, Lithgow, and Winton, the Byshoppe of Rosse, Sir George Hay, Sir Androw Car, and Sir James Skene. Wee likewife require yow, before your comming from thence, to fette the faid triall on foote, and fee fuch of the faid Articles tried and examined as may by witnesses be moste easilie procured; and in speciall, the first Article concerning the fetting of our cuftomes, which (in refpecte that those who were farmers thairof, are all or moste of them yet aliue) may be eafilie tryed, to the entent that, at your returne hether, yee may give vs a talting of the mater, that, by those few pointes, wee may coniecture what wilbe the euent of the wholle; and becaus, for clearing of diners pointes, it wilbe requesite that the Lord Ochiltrie haue inspection of such writtes, rolles, and registers as may ferue for his better proofe, it is good reason that yee cause the same be made patent to him as often as he fhall require, and that yee give him all lawfull incouragement which may animate him to perfifte in a good courfe. And affuring yow that the finding oute of the treuth of this mater wilbe vnto vs moste acceptable feruice, wee, &c. Apothorth,* 2 Aug: 1621.

[Indorfed:]
Coppie of his Maiesties lettre
to the Marques of Hamilton, 2d
of August 1621.

CXC.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY OF LOCHMABEN.

JUNE 12, 1622.

GOOD GOSSIP,

Theis ar to aquentt 30u that this morning betuix fax and feuin, my Lord Cancelar departed this lyff at his aun houfs of Pinkie.

I knau or this tym, 3e haue received letters from Sir Jaems Ballyie. I vill erneftlie intrett 30u to be carefull in this mater concerning the keiping of the abbay and park of Holyroudhous, thaer is many refons that moues to itt. I am duelling prefentlie in it, and am fo tyed be my place. All thir particulars I remitt to Sir Jaems Balyeis letter with this berar, and I doubt not bot 3e vill haue a cair of itt, as ever I can doo 30u pleafar. This from

Zour louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoufe, the xij. of June 1622.

To my louing Cufing, Jhoone Morray of Lochmabane.*

CXCL.—INSTRUCTIONS BY JAMES VI. RELATIVE TO THE ACTION BROUGHT BY THE EARL OF MART FOR RECOVERY OF THE BARONY OF KILDRIM-MIE.

1. For my advocate not to conceale, as he will ansowre to me upon his allegiance, if I can reflaue anie hurte ather in honoure or proffeit, if the Erle of Marre showlde tryumphe in this action.

• Shortly afterwards Viscount of Annand and Lord Murray of Lochmahen, and lastly Earl of Annandale.—Wood, in his edition of Donglas, mentions that "the date of his creation does not appear," but that he had a charter, wherein he is called John Viscount of Annand, of the Palace in Dumfries, &c., 20th February 1623—4. His elevation to the Peerage is earlier than this, as amongst the Balfour MSS, there is a letter signed "John Murray," dated the 27th June 1622, and addressed to the Earl of Melros, and then follows a letter by the Lord Johnstone, dated 6th August 1622, to Murray as "my Lord Viscount of Annan."

† John Earl of Mar brought an action of reduction-improbation, &c., against the Lord Elphinstone for setting aside his right to the barony of Kildrimmie (or Kildrummie), the principal estate of the ancient Earls of Mar. In this law-suit he was successful, and Lord Elphinstone, although he and his ancestors had been in possession for more than a century, was (as the act 1617 had only recently passed) compelled to restore the lands.

Kildrimmie had been seized hy Alexander Stewart, a natural son of the Wolf of Badenoch. Alarmed at what he had done, he, on the 19th September 1404, presented himself at the castle gate of Kildrimmie, and

- 2. That he transferre his place for this action, upon a qualified perfon of the Lorde Elphinstons election.
- 3. That the fession be commandit to take goode heede if any thing intervene in this process, that may indeede ather towche me in conscience, honoure or profitte, and that how soone any suche string shall be touched upon, I may be aquainted thair with, before thay make anie proceiding in that point.
- 4. That the Erle of Marre shall publiquelie declare, that he claimes nothing by Dame Marguerite Douglasse tvtle* to any pairt of the erldome

surrendered to Isobel, Countess of Mar in her own right, and widow of Sir Malcolm Drummond, not only the eastle, but the furniture and title-deeds. He then delivered the keys: whereupon the Countess, taking them in her hands, chose the said Alexander for her bushand, gave him the eastle, together with the Earldon of Mar, to be beld by her said bushand and herself, and the heirs to be procreated betwixt them: which failing, to the Countess and her lawful heirs. Accordingly, in presence of the Bishop of Ross and her tenants, she granted a charter to this effect on the 9th December 1404, which was ratified under the Great Seal the 21st January following.

Isobel Countess of Mar died without issue in 1419, whereupon the earldom and estate devolved on the heir of line, Janet Keith, grand-daughter of Ellen, sister of Donald, twelfth Earl of Mar. But James the First, who, in his desire to curb the nobility, made no scruple to set justice at defiance, refused to recognise her right or that of her busband, Sir Thomas Erskine, and although Alexander Stewart had merely a liferent, his Majesty obtained from him a resignation of the honours; whereupon a charter of the earldom was granted, 28th May 1426, to Alexander for his life, and to Thomas his natural son, and the lawful heirs-male of his body; which failing, to return to the crown. Earl Alexander died without issue in August 1435, and, as his son Thomas predeceased him, the earldom, under this charter, reverted to the crown. The resignation was, however, clearly null, as the substitution to the heirs of the Countess Isobel, in the charter 1405, upon her death effectually transferred the earldom to Janet Keith.

Robert Lord Erskine, son of the marriage between Janet Keith the heir of line, and Sir Thomas Erskine, upon the death of Alexander, served himself heir (22d April 1438) to Countees Isohel, and a precept was issued for infefting him, upon which seisin followed, 21st November 1438. He assumed the title of Earl of Mar, and subsequently besigged and took possession of the castle of Kildrimmie, but was compelled to redeliver it to the King. His service was thereafter reduced, and although his right to the earl-dom was perfectly clear, neither he nor his descendants were able to obtain it for more than a century. Upon the 5th May 1555, John Lord Erskine was served heir of Robert Erskine Earl of Mar, and upon the 23d June 1565, Queen Mary granted a charter of the carldom in his favour, which was ratified by Par-hameot, 19th April 1567. He accordingly became Earl of Mar; various suits, for recovering the family estates, were instituted by him and his son John, the next earl, which were for the most part successful.

"Margaret, daughter to the third Donald, Earle of Mar, as she designs herself in severall charters, succeeded her brother. She maried William, the first Earle of Douglas, by whom she had James, Earle of Douglas, killed att Otterburn, who had no lawful issue, only two bastard sones, the eldest, William, Laird of Drumlanrig, predecessor to James, Duke of Queensberrie, who got of the family severall lands, and, in

of Douglasse, and shall, if need be, make renunciation of any suche clayme in suche manner as the parties having intresse shall deuyse; et sic stat institute.

CXCII.—THE COUNTESS OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY. June 16, 1622.

MOST WORTHY SERVANT,

I am fory att my hart, faving Gods pleafur, to haue this occasion to advertis you of the death of my Lord Chanceller, who deceasted this morning betuixt fax and feaven. I pray God derect his magefly to take the best cowrs for the estaytt of this poore kingdome, for itt will be fownd thatt ther will be greatt missing of him thatt is gone. I know my lord hath wretten to you as one whome he doth repose in. My Lord is desyrows to haue his magestys favor to haue the keiping of the Abbay and the Park, the rather thatt in regard of his continual attendance heir in his magesty fervice, and thatt none will so willingly undergo sic occasions as do concerne the honor of the country, in enterteinment of strangers when itt sall fall owt, or any other occasions of his magesty service. So I beseik yow to giue your best affistance in thes, and thatt yow will do me the favor as to let me know whatt cowrs his magesty is to take, both in his service for appoynting of another chanceller, as lykways in this other

token of his grateful sense of their kindness, quartered the armes of the family of Mar with that of Douglas the other bastard was Archibald, predecessor to Douglas of Cavers. She bore also to the said William, Earle of Douglas, and daughter called Isobell, afterwards Countes of Mar. The said Margaret, Countes of Mar, was maried after to Sir John Swinton, whether after the death of William, Earle of Douglas, or by reason of a divorce from him, is not certain; by whom no issue. She designed herself Countes of Mar and Douglas, Godscroft, in his History of the Douglasses, as also a printed genealogie since come out, makes the said James, Earle of Douglas, to have been son to Margaret Dumbar, daughter to the Earle of March, which is a mistake, as appears by a disposition of Keith of Inverugies, as also by a charter granted by the said Margaret, Countes of Mar, of a mortificatione to the chappell of the Virgin Mary in Garviach, which is to be seen in the chartulary of Aberdeen in the Advocates' Library." Erskyne's Genealogie of the Mar Family, MS.

particular of the Park and the Abbay: So, wifeling yourfelf and your bedfellow all happines, I reft

Your affeured freind to ferve yow,

A. Erskyne.

Halyrudhus, 16 of June 1622.

Yesterday his magestys letter was rede in the cession, and according to his magestys defyr in itt, my lord did publickly renunce all claime to the Erldome of Dowglas, and therefter sett his hand to itt, as the lordes defyred.

To my verie loving freind, Mr Jhon Murray, of his Majeftys Bedchamber.

CXCIII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

June 20, 1622.

Good Gossup,

Althoh I haive vryttin this other letter, quhilk, according to 50ur aun difcrefion (give 5e think itt good), 3e may fhau unto his majeftie, 3itt haue I vryttin this letter particularlie for 50ur felf, to latt 30u knau fumquhat of the proceidings betwixt my Lord Elphinfton and me in this action we haue in hand. On Setterday laft our action vas called, and his majefties letter to the lords red in that grett mater that thay maed all the varld to ftartt at, concerning the erldom of Douglas and his lands. I haue giuuen the lords fatiffaction, and hes ondir my hand befor the lords renunced itt, quhilk is incert in the Bouks of the Seffion, and thair is no honeft man that is nott fatiffied with it, bott I houp to giue him fatiffaction for 5ourfelf. I fee my onfreinds hes not fpared

(giff thay could) to have flired vp 3e eiuin my best freinds against me, bott thay ar disceved. I have spokin both with my Lord Precedentt and Mr Thomas Houp, and 3e shalbe fatisfied in any thing 5e or thay shall think good; so no mor of this att this tym.

Vpon the xviii of this instantt it vas called again: thair thay naimed aine aduocatt, and the man vas my Lord of Durie, Mr Alexander Gibfoun, a thing thocht fo ftrange be all men heir, as the lyk vas neuer hard; for itt is aine ordinarie thing to my Lord Aduocatt to mak fubstitusion of anie in his place, to any aduocatt the partie vill choose; and in any causs quhaer he may nott compeir himfelf, bot to naim a lord of the ceffioun itt vas neuer hard befor, bot this is nott all; thay have moved his majestie to vrytt a particular letter to him to accept it; ypon this my partie giuueth furth, that his majestie doth fauor thair causs better than myn; and altho I knau itt is aine ontreuth, zitt itt grieues me nott a lytill that many peipill heir talks of itt. I vill pray 30u and all my freinds thair, to moue his majestie to be indifferentt, and latt the comun cours of justice go on, and latt thaem mak thaer choifs of any advocatt thay can, and lat the lords be our judges, and nott to fuffer thair triks to have place. The treu refon that thay vuld have my Lord of Durie advocatt is, that he may be fett and nott haue a vott in thatt cawfs, becaufs he is aine ondirftanding honest man, and thay knau any man of ondirstandings vill neuer be on thaer fyd. This pakkett of letters I haue directed in my Lord of Kelleis absens, to be delyuered onto zou, feiring he should be absent from courtt for his aun particular effaers; thairfor, giue fo he brek vp my letters to him, and give he be thaer, I defyr euerie on of 30u to fee others letters, for I vrytt euerie thing to any of 50u as itt did cum in my mynd. I am loth to fasche the prince vith continual vryting to him, bott I vill pray both 3ou and my Lord of Kellie to remember my fervice vnto him; and vithall, in all humilitie, to defyr him to hauld hand that no nouafion may be brocht in in my caufs, for than the varld vill think that my Lord Elphinstoun hes mor fauor of my master then I haiue, quhilk vill do me mor herm than all the land is vorth. I have vryttin tuo lynis (of creditt to my Lord of Kellie or 5our felf) to my Lord Deuk; and thairfor I pray 30u inform him particularlie as I haue vryttin unto 30u. This is all I can fay for the prefent; and fo I vill reft

Zour louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

As for your aun particular, itt is doin.

Je shall receive inclosed in this letter your letter of the 11 bak again according to your defyr; and I vill pray you to fend me bak thir tuay letters in this pakkett vith this berar, for I have only fentt him vp for expedition, because the ordinar pakkett runs so slaulie; and I pray you hest him bak to me, for my partie seiks nothing bott delay. My Lord of Sanctandross vnderstanding of this pakkett, desyred me to send this inclosed vnto you, quhilk ye shall receive.

Zour louing Goffup,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoufs, the xx of Junie 1622.

CXCIV.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.
October 10, 1622.

Most Gratious Soueraine,

Becaus of the warrants directit by 3our maieftie for paments to my Lord Chancellor, the Marques of Hamiltoun, and Thomas-Hudfon, of ther moneyis out of the first and second terms pament of

the taxatioune, ther wilbe no moneyis at this nixt Mertimes terme wherewith to buy in ane of these pensionis whiche 30ur maiestie hath appointed to be bought, for laik wherof 30ur maiesties debts will incres, and the possibilitie of pament therof wilbe the barder; for remedy heirof, I do heir present wnto 50ur maiestie my awin simple opinion, leiving to 50ur maiestie 50ur consideration to embrace or reiest the samp.

If your maiestie wilbe pleased that ane hundreth thousand merkis salbe borrowed vpon interest, I hoip to to manage the fame, as I shall buy in of zearlie rent to zour maiestie, frome these pensioneris, twentie thousand pounds—the rent to be pait for this borrowed money in ane zear and ane half, will extend only to ten thousand punds, and the rent to come into 30ur majesties coffers in that space, will extend to threttie thousand punds, fo as 5our maiestie shall ressaue three pennyis for one whiche 50w shall give out. I dar nocht promife, in regaird of zour majesties former warraunts, that this are hundreth thousand merkis can be pait in schorter tyme nor ane 3car and ane half after Mertymes, from whiche tyme furth, zour maiestie wilbe freed of paiment of the annualrent therof. Iff zour majestie allow of this my opinion, and will let me haue 30ur warraunt for paiment of this ane hundreth thousand merkis, with the annuell therof, out of the reddieft of zour majefties rents and of the taxatioun (the Marques of Hamilton being first pait), I shall engadge myselff and my frends our credits for borrowing therof. I have ordanit William Barclay to attend zour majestie, and to receave zour directioun heirin, whome it will pleas 3our majestie to trust: And so, beseiking Almightie God to bliffe zour majeftie with many happy dayes, I reft

Jour Majesties most humble subject and fervitor,

J. MAR.

Halyruidhous, the tenth of October 1622.

To the King his most Excellent Majestie.

CXCV.—LADY BEATRIX RUTHVEN TO KING JAMES VI. October 10, 1622.

My most humble service being in all reurance representitt,

Gif it may ples your most excelant maiestie not be offendit withe me, most excelant, most worthi, and most gracins feuit Keing, that I most humbly ons againe befeik your gracius graitt maieftie to haue pitie on my most difftresit efftett of me your maiestis most treu and faithfulle feruant, quha neulyis vnder the daenger, in this next fession, to lose and be put fra that littille roume calit Coufland, quhairin I haue remaenit and liuett fence my motheris differe to this prefeantt tym; and thairfoir I most humblly befeik your maiestie, for Godis caus, and for the lang and faithfulle feruice I maed your maiestie, that your maiestie will be sue gracius to me, as prefantlye, befor the fession sit dune, to fend ane varand of your maiestis to the counsalle, comanding tham varrie staetlye, that I be nae vayes truubilit or hurt by laue in the peffabille bruking of Coufland for my lyftyme; vithe ane particiler letter of your maiestis to the schansler, and to the Erile of Mourus, that thay tua may nou be my protekturiffe, wnder God, in all my afferis, as the last schansler vas, guha now restis with God: Your maiestie dereking tham this vaye, thay ville affeuritlye do fue. I most humbly beseik your most gracius maiestie, gif this varantt, together with your maiestis particuler letter to the schansler and president, aether to gif thes to the Douk of Lenox, or to the Erile of Huldernefe, to fend me, that I may go with tham myfelf, and prefent tham to thes lordis in your maiestis most princly nainclye naeme.* Most humblly expeking this fauuaris of your most excelent maiestie, as I fall euer pray the Etarnalle God, of his grait mercie, to grant your maiestie many lang and happie dayes, with the most joyfulle ring of all erthly kingis, to Godis

glorie, your maiestis heiche honour, and to the grait contentment of vs all, your maiestis most loueing feruantis; euer resting

Your Maiestis most humble, faithfull, and obediant feruant to deithe,

BEATRIX RUTHUEN.*

Edinbroche, the x of October.

[Indorfed:] Ladie Coldenknoweis, 10 October 1622.

CXCVI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 24, 1622.

Most Graciouse Souereing,

I receiued zour majesties letter of the 21 of October, shauing that ze haue maed choifs of Sir Archibald Naper to be tresurer deput of this kingdom, vith the motiues mouing zour maiestie to tak this courfs; sen zour maiestie hath so resolued, I shall in all humilitie obey zour directions; as for the gentillman, he is knaun to be both iuditious and honest, and as zour maiestie wrytts in zour aun letter, frie of partialitie or any factious humer; and I, vith all my hartt, doo vishe that all zour maiesties subiectes var als free of ther tuo fallts, as I houp tym shall mak knaun to zour maiestie that beth he and I ar; in quhilk respects zour maiestie heth made a good chois. For myself, my caer and paens shalbe

[•] The writer was a daughter of William first Earl of Gowrie, and sister of John the last Earl. She married Sir John Home of Coldingknowes.

nothing the less in forthering of 50ur maiesties service in all things incident to that place* viche 50ur maiestie heth honored me vith: And so, beseiking Allmichtie God to blis 50ur maiestie vith many happie days, I rest.

Jour Maiesties most humble subject and servitor,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoufe, the 24th of Nouember 1622.

To the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

CXCVII.—THE EARL OF BUCCLEUCH TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND. [1623 ?]

My LORD,

I recevett your letter from Andoveer, and dois attend hys majeftie refolutione about the particular the counfell rytte in, viche I in that fhall obey in all humilitie, vhatt it fhall pleis hys majeftie to command. I dout nott bott my Lord off Nithifdaille vill acquent you vhatt hes bein done att thys laft courte, fo I vill nott enter in ony particular. For me in thatt fervice, affeure hys majeftie thatt my lyffe fhall rather faille then vnvillingnes to doo hym all fervice, viche I am bond too, and most faithfullie as hys trew subjett. My Lord, I vnderstand that my

[·] The office of Lord High Treasurer of Scotland.

oncle, Frances Stewart,* is partett from heir touards your courtt: vhatt hys defyrs vill be to his majeftie I kno nott, yett I vood defyre that faueur from you, as to remember hys majeftie faueur touards thos thatt hes bein faithfull fervants to hym, and that to thaire pouar is daylie doing his majeftie fervice, thatt if so be his diffeins be as befoire to the prejudice off me and others thatt hes done hys majeftie fervice, in thatt particular he may be plefett to schow the continuance off hys royall dispositione in our faueur, as befoire it hes plefett his majeftie to do. I ritt thys nott off any missout I haue off hys maieftie faueur to me, far aboue my meritte I confess, bott left hys majeftie fould be surprisett, and he persuade hym of vhatt is nott. I am consident your Lordship vill do this faueur to your ferviteur, and vithe all speike hys majestie in thys particular about Frances Steuartt; as also befrind vhatt concerns hym, thatt on all occasiones vill ever pross your lordships ferviteur,

BUCCLEUCHE.

[No Date.]

I vill humblie intratt that faueur off your lordship as to lett me heir from you in thys busines, and to caus delyver thyr other too letters, for viche I shall be ever obligett.

To my verrye honorable good Lord, my Lord Vicount off Annande.

[•] Francis, the forfeited Earl of Bothwell, married Lady Margaret Douglas, eldest daughter of David seventh Earl of Angus, and relict of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch. Francis Stewart was, therefore, brother uterine of Sir Walter Scott, first Baron of Buccleuch, and uncle of Walter (the writer of this letter), who succeeded his father as Lord Scott of Buccleuch in 1611; and who, by patent, dated 16th March 1619, was created Earl of Buccleuch.

CXCVIII THOMAS NICOLSON TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND. JANUARY 27, 1623.

RICH HONORABILL,

My very guid lord, efter dewtifull remembrance of my feruice, I receavit your honouris letter from my guid lord the Earle of Roxburgh, quhairby and be his lordships informatioun of the pains your honour hes takin in my particular, anent my gift of the postmaisterschip of Colbrandspeth,* I think my felf fo tyit to ferue your honour, that I am afchamit of my inhabilitie, quhilk clofis vp the inward affectioun 1 haue to ferue your honour. Bot feing thair is no obligatioun of impoffibiliteis, I doubt not bot your honour will accept of my guid mynd, and vie me as your honouris fervand in any thing quhairin my fervice may be fteadable. And becaus, notwithftanding of the difficultie of my erand, your honour wills me in the letter to abyd quhill his maiestie may be movit, I have takin the bauldnes at this prefent to putt your honour in remembrance heirof. I haif fent the gift with this gentilman, Archibald Campbell, who will attend your honour heirin. I think my Lord Marques of Hamilton will affift your honour heirin, becaus the Erle of Roxburgh and the Clerk of Register hes writtin to his lordschip in my favouris. The only fcrupule that withhaldis the kingis maiefty is becaus he will not mak offices hereditary; bot in my particular, thair is no fic daunger as in offices of authoritie and jurifdictioun. For, first, it is ane fervice and a thraldome quhilk I wald never undergoe, if it wer not to eschew ane gritter oppressioun, if the office wer disponit to men of clan, quho wald, vuder colour thairof, oppresse me and my tennentis; nixt, it is only within my awin land, and fua can do no man harme; and last, thair is no schyir quhairin his maiestie hes not heritabill mairis or fervandis, quhilk ar allowit as maift necessar for his maiesteis service. The lyk is in my case;

See Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 494.

for if I had the office heritabill, I wald caus mak provisioun boath for fufficient horffes and intertenement of gentilmen passingeris, quhilk is aluterly neglectit, and can not weill be redressit, in respect of the waiknes of the postmaisteris; quhair, be the contrair, I wald be compellit be my infestment to mak sufficient provisioun for hors and man. These arguments, I think, wilbe sufficient to move his maiestie; bot the grittest argument I rely vpon is your honouris favour towardis me vndeserved; for the quhilk I will remane

Ever your honouris bund man,

TH. NICOLSON.

Edinburgh, 27 Januarii 1623.

To the richt honourabill my verry guid Lord, the Lord Vicount of Annand.

CXCIX.—THE VISCOUNT OF STORMONT TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

FEBRUARY [1623?]

My WERAY HONORABILL GUD LORD AND LUVING SUNE,

Thir prefents ar onle to let 30u knaw quhow gled I ame to heir off 30ur preferment,* quhilk I thocht to hef knavne by 30ur avine letter, for 60 30 affurit me at our laft miting that 50 vald do nothing in 30ur avine afters bot 50 vald acquent me with the fame with the first of 50ur frindis; bot fince, fen 50 hef dune fo vill, and I think all 50ur freindis heir vill be gled, and none mor nor myfelff, for the quhilk we that ar 30ur freindis heir hes grayt caus to thank God for the fame, and 30ur lordschip felff mor nor enay; vtherfor, God hes the hert of all creatur in his handis, quha disposs all thingis at his plesur in the avine tyme. Now,

[.] The elevation of John Murray to the peerage, as Viscount of Annand.

my gud lord, fen ze hef gotine zour preferment by God and zour grafivs mester, let it be your gritest ker to be thankfull, and that God will continow his bliffings with 30w, and vill continow 30ur mefters louf in gifin mor and mor. And I pray yow let not your preferment draw you ava fre zour vuntit atendens voone zour mefter that hes bene fua grafivs to zow: let zour thankfulnes be knavine to the varild, and fper nather penis nor trevell in zour atendens, mor now nor ze hef dune befor. Sune, I lef this to that God that hes direkit 50w in all 30ur afers to direk 50w now fefer frome him, and he vill gif 30w mor nor 3e kane vis or cref. Now, fune, I most end, and I recommend 50w and all 30ur afers to the protectioune of Almychte God. Zit, fune, I most be trubilfum, and intret zour vuntit fauour to be kerfull of zour fervand, my auld mane, guhume I vis recomendit to my grafivs mefter, quha promift to me that he vald prefer him to fume fervis. My hert fune, remember quhow ftedabill 3e hef beine by the ples that ze hed in zour mefters fervis, not onle to me, bot to menay vtheris. Remember quhat it is to hef ane trow frind in ane ples of credit; and now fince your credit is avanfit, and I ame fertene ze hef credit boithe with zour grafivs mefter, and with them that hes most credit abut him, extend zour credit, and ples Mungo* in fum ples of credit abut his maiestie or the prens, for the varild is no fo constant, bot the graytest may hef ado with ane trow frind fumtyme, and I vill be gud for his trowthe and duate to 30w. My hert fune, remember quhat I hef wretine, and be kerfull to pleis him and extend zour credit, for I houp ze fall niver repent the fame. Sua I reft, and fall remene,

Jour Lordfchips trow friend to ferff zow,

STORMONT.

To my weray honorabill gud Lord and luving fone, my Lord Vicountt off Annand.

Fourth son of John first Earl of Tullibardine. He became, upon the death of the writer of this letter, on the 27th of August 1631, by force of a special remainder in the patent of creation, second Viscount of Stormont.

CC.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI. $\label{eq:cc.} J_{\text{ULY 15, 1623.}}$

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair wes a complaint maid to your maiefties counfell, be the Earle of Bugcleugh, the last counfell day, proporting, that quhairas by a custome vncontrauerted, and in commoun practize betuix the twa kingdomes thir mony yeires bigane, the commissionaris on ather fyde wer allowit, be thame felfis, thair freindis or feruandis, to follow and perfew fugitives fleeing frome the one cuntrey to the other, and to apprehend thame, and bring thame bak to thair tryall, whilk wes a speciall meane to fuppres the forder growthe of thift, and wes a grite fcair to lymmaris and malefactouris to offend. And that he, as one of the commissionaris ouer the Middlefhyris, haueing directit certane gentlemen, who are authorized be your maiesties warrand, in the executioun of some pointis of service concerning the Middlefhyris, to apprehend one Johnne Hay, a commoun and notorious theif and lymmair, who wes fugitiue, and fled oute of this cuntrey to England for thift, that thay wer perfewit be a nomber of Sir Raulff Gray his men, houndit oute be him, the fugitive tane of thair handis, and thay thame felflis maid prifonnaris, till they fand cautioun to be answerable to thair tryale in England. And he forder complenit, that whereas the lawis of this kingdome admittis fummar and fauourable iuftice in materis of thift and wrongis falling oute betuix the kingdomes, quhairof the fubicctis on that fyde hes had goode prooffe in all thair adois prefented to the confideration of the inflice heir, that notwithflanding the lyke meafour of inflice is not grantit to the fubicctis of this kingdome, who, when thay challange ony of thair goodis in England, and craveis redres and reftitutioun to be maid vnto thame, according to that mutuall goode forme and ordour whilk aught to be interteyneed betuix

the kingdomes, and is verie refpectivelie keeped on this fyde, that thay ar putt of and remittit to the commissionaris and justices of affise in thair ordinarie circuitis; quhairthrow the growthe of thist hes a daylie progres, malefactouris vpoun hoip of impunitie ar encourageit to offend, your maiesteis subiectis ar frustrat of institute, and that goode correspondence and mutuall concurrence whilk fould be intertenyed betuix your maiesties officiaris on ather fyde, for suppressing of thist and punisheing of malefactouris is interrupted and neglectit. Whereof, at the humble requests and desire of the faid earle, we haif heirby thought meete to acquent your maiestie, to the intent that youre maiestie, in the excellencie of youre wisdome, may tak suche ordour thairin as shalbe sittest for the goode of your maiesties subiectis of bothe kingdomes. And so, with the rememberance and continewance of oure uncessant prayers unto God for your maiesties lang and happie reignn, we rest

Your Maiesties most humble and obeydent subjectis and feruitouris,

GEORGE HAY.
SANCT ANDREWS.
NITHISDAILL.

J. Mar.
Morton.
GLENCAIRNE.

Haliruidhous, xv. July 1623.

To the King his most Sacred and Excellent Maiestie.

[Indorfed:]
Counfell, concerning the E. of
Buckleughes complainte of
Sr Ralphe Grayes people,
15 July 1623.

CCI.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND. October 10, 1623.

My MOST HONORABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your lordship, I have mett with William Dik, but hath not as yet concluded with him. I fie gif he vndertak to furnishe ellevene hundreth pundis, your lordship must before the terme, and before he come out of Paries, give vnto his factour the vther thowfand pundis, whiche will outred my Lord Nithifdall and Bacleuch. But in this I fall be fullie refolved befor I fie your lordship and part with William Dik. I hoip to be at Roiftoun this Setterday, and fo foone as your lordship is able to gett me difpatched, I mynd to returne homeward, both for your lordships awin caws and myne. I will not dubt but your lordship will be thinking to gett all thingis done to my contentment, for I falbe forie at my hart to fie any thing difcontent yow. I pray your lordfhip confer with the marques, and vnderstand his lordships mynd befor I come, and both of you enter with his maieftie anent Sir Archbald,* to quit the juftice clarckship for fome tytle of honour, and that I may be dealt with for my place; and be fparing to promes too muche in my name, but promes to deall with me. Do in this particular as your lordfhip thinkis meiteft, and I befeech your lordfhip have it begune befor I come, for I may not ftay on it. Gif the marques delay tyme, and gif this takis no effect, I must pas all in Sir Archbaldis his name. Tak head that Sir Robert Duglas and his freindis mifinforme not the prince of me. Speak the Duk of Bukinghame, wha I know will fie me gett no wrong. Pleas your lordship, refave this letter frome your honourable and good ladie, whome

[•] Sir Archibald Napier. This attempt to induce him to resign his pretensions to the office of Justice-Clerk was not successful, as Sir Archibald obtained the appointment (which he, however, retained a very short time) in November following. He was, in May 1627, created Lord Napier of Merchiston.

I have found at this tyme most loving and kynd. So I tak my leave to meating, and restis

Your Lordships loving enfyne, to ferve yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.

Kingstreat, this 9 October 1623.

Since the wrytting heirof, I come to the Exchange, and fpak with William Dik,* who is content to fend down his man with me, that befor I go to Scotland thingis may be left at a certantie, and himfelf will wrytt to yow his awin mynd.

London, this 9 October 1623.

This morning I have feene the marques go to the Starchamber, fo that I know not what to do. I pray your lordship let me hear your lordships awin opinion, whidder I fall come downe or stay till the marques come.

This 10 of October 1623.

To my most honourable good Lord the Vicount of Annan, theas.

[Below the Seal:]
This letter wes twys opened, ons for William Dik, and this morning when I did fie the Marques going to the Star Chamber.

[•] Afterwards Sir William Dick, and Lord Provost of Edinburgh, in 1638, 1639. He was, at one period, perhaps the most opulent merchant of his time, but subsequently he fell into difficulties, and died in poverty. There is an exceeding rare pamphlet, in small folio, containing an account of his sufferings, with toree engravings by William Vaughan; in the first of which Sir William is seen mounted on horseback, with attendants, shipping, army, and a town in the back-ground. In the second, he is represented in prison, with his wife, attended by the jailor and his assistants; and in the third, he is in his coffin, with his family mourning over him. A copy of this curious volume was sold for twenty-three guineas at the sale of Sir James Lake.

CCII.—THE VISCOUNT OF LAUDERDALE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

NOVEMBER 27, 1623.

My VERIE HONORABILL GOOD LORDE AND BROTHER,

The good proof your lordship hath often giwen whatt place my requeifts hath fund with yow makes me oftentymes more importunatlie to be urged to be a footer to your lordship, nor either reasone or discretione can fusser me to obeye. Houbeitt, at this tyme I can not refuis to second ther entreatyes, who I knaw will be humble footers to your lordship in the behalf of my Persone of Lauder, Mr James Burnett, who desyreth be my Lorde of St Androes (who I knaw can not in dewtye refuis anye of your lordships demandes) to be transported to the cure of the kirke of Libbertoun, wher I am lykwayis a parishoner. The particular informatione I will remit to his brother, your lordships fervitour, Mr Robert Burnett, who, att his last cumming home, delivered a letter of your lordship anent youre reductione against Harden, which, I shall be verie cairfull, maye goe right; and in everie thinge els, shall be readie to discharge the dewtye of

Your Lordships most affectionat brother to ferue yow,

LAUDERDAILL.*

Edinburgh, 27 of Novr. 1623.

To my verie honorabill good Lorde and brother, my Lorde Vicount of Annand.

[•] John, second Lord Maitland of Thirlstane, created Viscount of Lauderdale by patent, dated at Whitehall, 2d April 1616, to him and his heirs-male and successors in the Lordship of Thirlstane, and Earl of Lauderdale by patent to him and his heirs-male, bearing the name and arms of Maitland, dated 14th March 1624. He died in January 1645, and was buried in the church of Haddington. Drummond of Hawthornden wrote an epitaph upon him. He was the father of the celebrated Duke of Lauderdale.

CCHI.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND. [November 1623?]

MY MOST HONOURABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your Lordship, I refaved your lordships of the 8 of this inftant, wherin it appeiris your lordship hes writtene a letter to Mr Thomas, whiche your lordship thinkis sufficient to informe both Mr Robert Burnett and me, as indeid it had beene fo, gif it had comit to Mr Thomas Hoips handes, but we cannot fynd fuch a letter: Alwayes for the buffines of Bonitoun, I hoip we fall do the best we may, for your lordthip is mutche beholdene to my Lord Chancelair, and Mr Thomas Nicolfone does his part bravelie. As for all your lordships effairis, I fall tend theme as my awin, and do theirin, I hoip, to your lordships contentment. I delyvered your lordfhips letter to my Lord Kinclevene prefentlie, who gave your lordship many thankis for the same and the letter of exchange. I culd not shawe it to my Lord of Mar als your lordship defyred, becaus it was closed; but I read the postfeript of your letter to his lordship, who randered your lordship many thankis, and fayd he cared not what my Lord Kinclevene wriett, for he had no just caws. Your lordship will perfave be Robert Burnettis letter how your action goes: He miffed the pakat the last week: your lordships letter is within this pakat, whiche your lordship may break vp and tak your awin: this him felf fayes. In tyme coming he will give me your lordships letter to be fent, for I knaw the Duk his grace is fomtyme abfent. I thank your lordship that wraett to my Lord of Melroes, that I putt your lordship in mynd of his maiesties

tokene: His lordship gave me many thankis, and delyvered me theas last letteris out of his awin hand, and fent at night to fie gif I wold wrytt any ansliver. I hear no thing of Harbart Maxwellis coming to this towne. I feir he come not at all. It merwellis me that he never wryttis his mynd to me. A greater man wold have honored me with ane ansiwer of my letteris; but your lordship is wys, and knawes how to come by your awin. Had he comit heir, I thought to have takene himfelf, his fone, and fone in law, bund for the fowme to Witfonday, whiche I perfave he eshewes. Your lordship rememberis what charge his maiestie gafe me anent Sir Jhone Buchannan, and I wes going about to have drawene him to have gevene his maieftie all contentment; but I perfave the commissioneris of the rentis bath mett vpoun a letter of his maiefties, writtene in favouris of my Lord Chancelar, that gif they fynd it meitter to fewe it thene to feek the rayfing of the tenentis, that thene my Lord Chancelar fuld have the benefit of the fynes of the feweris for his help, and releif of his lordthips dettis. I believe the lordis has found that the fewing is the beft way for his maieftie, and that howfoever Sir Archbald Napier hes beene informed, and wold have ftryvene to improve the rent for his maiefties profit, yit that way wes vncertane for his maiestie and successouris; wheras, being fewed to the heicft rentall, it will euer be a fure rent heirefter to the crowne. Muche reafouning hes beene in this, and many thinkes my Lord Chancelar not wys to tak that, I meane the fynes, for his maiefties help and revard, for the people ar poor, and hes beene rayfed to als great a rent as the land is able to pay to the lordis and earles of Orknay, and fewe of theme will defyre fewes, fo that, gif his maieftie be not gratious to him vtherways, he hes fped evell. I proteft to God, thoghe himfelf go over as he intendis, I do think he fall repent his jornay, and never mak fyve shilling the frank. So that, gif your lordship heir any thing of this when the commissioneris auffwer comes, tell your opinioun to his maiestie freelie, to lat his freindis their at court sie that your lordship is his freind, and lat his maiestie knaw that I forgat not his directioun in ony one poynt. Sir Archbald Napier merwellis your lordthip never wreatt to him his maiefties mynd concerning the Juftice

Clerkis place;* but I think Sir George Elphinfone is not fo fure of it as is talked of heir, in refpect your lordship hes never writtene. Do as your lordship thinkis good and fittest for his maiesties service. I think I gaue your lordship thankis in my last for your lordships newe yeir gwyst or tokene to my doghter Sophei, and now my wyf, who hes read your lordships letter, sendes hir most hartlie thankis with the remembrance of hir humble service to your lordships self and your noble ladie. I pray God grant that we may have yow both long to the foir. So, wishing your lordship and hir both all happines, I remaine

Your Lordships loving Cufyne to ferve yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.+

[No date.]

For the landis of Wamphray, and all thingis of that erand, we fall meit and do the lykelieft, and I think your lordship is of a good opinioun.

CCIV.—JOHN ASHBURNHAM TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

April 8, 1624.

RIGHT HONORABLE,

The queene, my mistrife, being folicited by this bearer, James Reid, to recommend vnto your honour the consideration of his

Napier was appointed Lord Justice Clerk, 23d November 1623. So this letter, which is without date, must have been written shortly before that event.

[†] Weldon mentions Baillie, amongst other favourites of James, as getting a "pretty" estate, and observes, "Old servants should get some moderate estates to leave to posterity." Secret History of Court of James I. Edinburgh, 1811, 8vo. vol. i. p. 372.

eftate, and havinge had information from his captain of his true and valiant fervice in the warrs of Bohemia and the Palatinat, herfelfe commiferating his hurts and miffortunes, hath given me the bouldneffe, in thefe fewe lines, to fignifie as much unto your honour, and to defire you, in her name, to fhew him fuch favour, as fhall fland with his defert and your convenience; for which her maieftie will be readie to acknowledge the obligation at your hands, and myfelfe bound ever to remaine,

Your Honoris faithfull and humble fervant,

Jo. Assheburnham.*

Hagve, the 8th of Aprill 1624. St. Novo.

To the Right Honourable Sir George Hay, Lord Chauncellor of Scotland, &c. at Edinburgh.

^{*} John Ashburnham has obtained an historical celebrity from having been one of the two persons by whose means Charles I. fell into the hands of his enemies after his escape from Hamptoo Court. Whether this was the result of accident or design, is one of those controverted points which can never be satisfactorily settled, although the presumptions are much in favour of the former supposition. His descendant, the present Earl Ashburnham, with the view of vindicating his ancestor's reputation, published in 1830, at London, in two volumes 8vo, "A Narrative of John Ashburnham—of his attendance on King Charles the First from Oxford to the Scotch Army—and from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight. Never before printed. To which is added, A Vindication of his Character and Conduct from the misrepresentations of Lord Clarendon. By his Lineal Descendant and Present Representative." The biographers of Ashburnham seem not to have been aware of his ever baving been in the service of the Queen of Bohemia. He died on the 15th of June 1671, in the 68th year of his age.

CCV.—THE EARL OF SEAFORTH TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

July 4, [1624?]

My WERE HONORABILL GOOD LORD,

The Inglifch gentilman quho was recommendit heir be zour lordschip, efter as he taried sum dayis with me, he thairefter vent to Lochew, and faw fick voodis as was thair, and vent to Lochcarron, and faw the voodis and fick commodities as he thouht might beft ferue his purpofe. Sick certanty as I have gottin of him, zour lordfchip may perceaue by theis tua letteris of his, quhilk efter as zour lordfchip hes confiderit them, your lordfchip wilbe pleafit to think on the best vay how to draw on a bargan tuixt him and me for the voodis of Lochcarron; for I mynd to keip the voodis of Lochcarron for him, fince thei may best do his turne, and may mak me maift benefeit; fua that gif he cumis schortlie as he vreatis, I affuir myfelfe he will adress himfelf to zour lordfchip, efter quhilk tyme how far 30ur lordfchip may vork with him, 30ur lordschip fall acquent me. Gif vther vayes he cum nocht befoir the 15 or 20 of August, it will pleis zour lordschip to vreat to him that he will nocht find me to bargan vith wnles he mak fpeid. Since this is one of the best things I haue, both to get zour lordschip and me moneyis, 30ur lordschip fall tak 30ur avin consideratioun heirin quhat is fittest to be done with him. I creaw your lordfchips pardoun for putting yow to this panis.

The workis that ar at Lochew, I found at Vitfunday the furnace blowin outt, and no ftok provydit; fua that, quhill I may get a ftok mead, I haue difmiffit all the feruandis, except the faw millis, quhilk I will follow. I conducit vith George, 50ur lordfchipis nephew, for to fet both the furnace he vreatt till Lambes; bot things hes interveinit fo to him, that the

pairt concernit me of the vorks ar to do, quhilk I pass. He is in deilling vith me for the things that ar about that loch of Lochew. Since nothing as 3it hes taken effect, I spair to vret any thing thairanent. Gif ony thing be done, I sall haue 3our lordschip aduertesit, quhair be that or I had ony thing ather in that of Lochew or the vther, I may be aduysit be 3our lordschip. This, with the rememberance of my best service,

Zour Lordschips maist affectionit freind and feruant,

SEAFORT.*

4 Julij. On my vay to Lochew.

Gif anie thing 3our lordfchip dois with this Inglifch man, be way of bargan tuix me and him, I fall performe the fame at his heircuming. Gif vther uayis 3our lordfchip thinks good to bring him to ane point, and to aduertife me, in that do as 3e think best: I fall follow 3our lordfchips aduyfe. Sick letteris as beis direct to him, he defyrit George Hay to fend them to Mr Galloway, or to James Douglas. I tak vp no les nor that he and George thinks to partak togidder.

To the Right Honorabill my noble good Lord, my Lord Chancellour of Scotland.

Colin, second Lord Kintail, was created Earl of Seaforth by patent to him and his heirs-male, dated 3d
 December 1623. This letter was probably written in 1624. His brother George succeeded him in 1633, and became the second Earl.

CCVI.—SCOTISH SUBJECTS AT DANTZIC TO KING JAMES VI. August 30, 1624.

TO THE KINGIS MAIESTY OF GREAT BRITANE, &c. OUR GRATIOUS AND SOVERAIGNE LORD,

Zour maiesties lettre, fent to ws with Hughe Mowat, 30ur maiesties servaunt, hes manifested the fatherlie cair quhilk 30ur maiesty hes of our wiellfair, and to protect vs frome the oppressionne of thir ftraungeris amang quhome we lief; and trewlie we acknowledge that his diligence with zour majesties authority hes bein very profitable to ws. Bot of lait their is ane generall edict promulgat, quhairby all ftraungeris (quha ar not burgeffis) ar commanded to remove out the townis of Dantzik and Lueinsbrig (althocht we knau that the executioune is onelie bended aganis these of the Scottis natione quha ar not frie), and we can conjecture no other reasone for this vnaccustumed rigour, bot the exorbitant numberis of zoung boyis and maidis, vnable for any feruice, tranfported hier zierlie, bot especially this sommer, quha baithe scandalizes the natioune, and ar burdenable to ws. Hierfoir we most humblie besiek zour maiestie, that (by the advys of this gentillman) zour maiestie wald prevent the fcandall in tyme comming, and by 3our maiesties favorable ' lettres to the magistratis of this land, hinder the executioune of theis edictis, leaft we be ranked with Jewes and Infidellis; and we (as in

In the Analecta Scotica, vol. ii. p. 385, a letter is printed from Patrick Gordon, the Poet, to James VI.
 in which he gives a very curious account of the dissolute morals of the Scotch in Dantzig.

dewtie bund) fall pray continewallie for zour maiesties lang and happie regne,

Jour Maiesties most humble and distressed fubiectes of the Scottis natioune, remaining in Dantzik and Lueinsbrig,

James Moresone.
James Ruthvene.
George Blewhous.
Wiliam Lyndsay.

WILIAM RAMSAY.
DAVID OUCHTERLONY.
THOMAS MORTTIMER.
DAUID MAXWALL.

With fundrie wtheris guhais names cannot heir be conteined.

Dantzik, this penult August 1624.

To the Kingis Maiesty of Great Britane, &c. our Gratious and Soveraigne Lord.

CCVII.—FRANCIS HAY* TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

November 5, 1624.

RYCHT HONORABILL AND MY VERIE GOOD LORD,

Pleis yow receaue tuo letteris that I had out of France. Ane other of my Lord Ambaffadouris fervantis wryttis to me, that Monf^r de Cheuereux wes at the Begnieux, making greatt preparationne to come ouer, bot the work men ar ftayit, which makis him think the match is not far advanced, and fayes the Cardinall ruillis all, and the Cardinall may not offend the Pope, and the Pop muft not difpleas the

^{*} Probably the chancellor's nephew. He was a writer to the signet, and acquiring the lands of Balhousie in Perthshire, was designed by that title. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 48. From him the present Earl of Kinnoul is descended.

Deuillis bairnes, the Spainyardis. He that brocht ouer this pacquet wes difpatched that fame nicht he come, and my Lord Buckinghame, who went to London, and wes not to returne for aucht days, come bak with this pacquet to gett ane ansuer dispatchit, as he did. The morrow we go to Newmercat, and dynes by the way in Chesterford Park. They talk of the Duik of Buckinghames going to France, and manie noblemen to go with him, as Salisburie, Montgomerie, Dorfett, and vtheris. Pray God all thingis wer in reddines for that jurney. This in haift, finding my Lord Kellie to fend away a packet. I reft,

My Lord, your Lordshippis humble fervitour,

FR. HAY.

Roystone, the 5 of November 1624.

I pray your lordship remember the Nasmythis bussines, and help Andro Scott.

To the Rycht Honorabill my verie good Lord, my Lord Chancellour of Scotland.

CCVIII.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 8, 1624.

MOST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Amongst vther lettres from your maiestie, whiche I cannot so quiklie ansuer, I restauitt this day one, bearing that your maiestie is crediblie informed that the Lord Kinclevin gave way to my business con-

cerning Orkenay; but your maiestie not knowing the conditiones, requireth me to aduertife your maiestie how farre wes commoned betuix vs, and whither anye thing wes concluded, and what it wes. And whereas the faid Lord of Kinelevin* demandeth fix and threttie thousand pounds Scotts for his satisfaction in that matter, that your maiestie is well pleased that I find out the meanes how he may be payit or satisfied without your maiesties hurte. The passages betuix the Lord Kinelevin and me, as I mot ansure to God and your maiestie, sa farre as my memorie serveth me, have bein these, and no other.

After my returne from England in December 1623, or thairabout, he came to me in the loging I have in your maiefties pallace heir, and fayd that he wes informed that I wes about the fewing of Orkenay, and that he culd hardlie believe that I wold feik the ouerthrow of his house. I faid his lordships informatioun wes trew; but that I wes perfuaded that neuer he nor anye of his wold get that erldome nor anye fubiect els. He faid that I wold neuer mak 30m markes of that bufines (whatfoeuer hopes I had of more). I answered that then I fuld have ane ill bargaine, for I douted my chairges wold furmount that, befoir all wer fetled. Some other wordes he vttered, and pairted discontent. After that, I hard not from his lordfhip againe (that I remember), till the verie day I tooke my jorney from Dalkeith, in August last, towardes your facred maiefties court, whiche being Sonday, and I having dyned and haiftening to fermon about elleuin a cloke, to be at Lawder tymouslie befoir nicht, he cam to me in the street, and asked if I meant to go on in the business of Orknay. I fayd that not, and that I had left thinking anye more of "Nay," quod he, "ye shall not do fo. I stopped yow, and I will

[•] John Stewart, second son of Rohert Earl of Orkney, was created a Peer by the title of Lord Kinclevin, 10th Angust 1607. He was substquently advanced to the dignity of Earl of Carrick, but although his creation was in July 1628, he was not admitted to the dignity for more than two years, owing to a doubt expressed by the Peers, how far the title of Carrick, which was the proper style of the Prince of Scotland, could be communicated to a subject. His Lordship explaining that he took the title from a place called Carrick, on his own estate in Orkney, and not from the Earldom in Ayrshire, the difficulty was got over, and he was received as an Earl. He died in 1652 without male issue, when the titles became extinct, his Lordship leaving only one daughter, and the dignities being limited to the heirs-male of his body. In the year 1733, a notice was inserted in one of the newspapers, that these honours were to be claimed by one having right to them.

worke it againe for yow." "That is more then I know" (faid I), "that ye flayed it. As euer it be, I meane to deale no further in it:" And my words wer as my thoughts, for as I mot be faved, when I cam to your maiestie at Russod, I had no intention euer to meddle anye more with it. The rest of his wordes at that tyme he remembreth better then I, who took na great head to them, as having cast of all thinking of Orkenay. He fayde he wold wryt vp to the Erl of Annandale, who wold fpeak with me more particularlie. The Erl of Annandale, I think, can remember whither at anye tyme of my being thair, his lordship and I had euer anve conference anent the giving off my lands, but for the pryce. When I cam bak from England laft, the Lord Kinclevin afked me if I had done anye thing anent Orkenay? I faid, "Yes, more then I thocht to have done at our pairting." "Then," quod he, "ye will let me have Kinclevin and Innernytie." "That ye fhall," quod I, "and als cheape as I can give them to anye man in Scotland." "Nay," quod he, "ye will let me have them frielie, and I will give yow the half of the precept I am to get from his maiestie." This to me was a motion I neuer dreamed of, and made me to reply, that I wold not give him ane aker of myne heretage for your maiesties gift to me; nor had I euer in my lysse anye share in any vther mans gift. He infifted to make me think that his meaning at Dalkeith wes fuche, and that his lettres wrytten vp to court, procured your maiefties and the princes highnesse fauour to me in that particular, both whiche may be trew, but not to my knowlege. After this, he cam to me to Perth, and thair, passing from his former imaginarie grounds, he asked of me the pryce of my lands, whiche, because I wes defyrous to fell, and rather to him then anye vther, for his contentment, I told him at the feconde and last word, wes fourtie four thousand markis, or tuentie nyne thousand and sum odde pounds, with a discharge of a desperat det of sour thousand pounds, for whiche my poore brother wes oblift to his lordship for the Laird of Clunye. He then asked me if I wold accept a precept for my payment? I fayde that I wold be loth to be a futar to the thefaurar for the pryce of my lands, but if his precept did bear to be payde be myfelff off the few deutie of Orknay, I wold accept it for payment, and put his lordship in prefent possession of the lands. Thus we left, and at

his defyre I wret to the Erl of Annandale and Mr Maulde. If in this I erred in naming fo fure and conftant a pairt of your maiesties reuenew to be fubicat to his precept, I crave your maiesties pardon. I know it is nather my dutie, nor hath it bein my custome, to shaw men the wayes to draw or keep moneyes out of your maieflies coffers; but having vnderfloode from your owne facred mouth, that ye wer pleafed to grant him a precept, I thocht it a point not fo materiall for your maiestie out of what pairt of your rents the fame wer payde, and to me, onercharged with dets, important to be fure of payment for fo good a pairt of my heretage. The tyme your maiestie wes gratiouslie pleased to grant the abatement off the fyve thousand markes of the rent to me, and to aske me what I thocht wold content the Lord of Kinclevin, I fayd to your maiestie that I believed if he culd have my land of Kinclevin and Innernytie, they wold content him; and if your maiestie wold be pleased to abate so muche of the 40^m markes per annum of the rent of Orkenay, as these lands payde to me yearlie, he fuld have them. Your maiestie ansuered me, that ye wald diminishe the rent no more. "Then your maiestie must grant him a precept," fayd I; and fo your maiestie bad me think of it: and I may lang think of it, befoir I fatissie the last pairt of your maiesties lettre, willing me to find out the meanes to gett him moneyes without your maiesties hurte; for wher shall these moneyes be fund, whiche nather ar, nor fliall, nor can cum into your coffers? I have bein tedious, but it is out of a defyre to ansuer your facred maiesties lettre in all pointes. The fumme is, that, as God is my witnefs, I neuer made any condition with the Lord Kinclevin for giving any pairt of my lands, bot for payment, as to vthers; nor to fhare with him in any precept, nor till my laft returne from your maiestie, did I euer conceive that his lordship had anye suche meaning anent my lands, but by way of fale. What his owne thoughts have bein he knoweth best; or what stopp he made to me first, or what way he gave laft, your most facred maiestie and your most excellent fon know, not I, whom, albeit private difficulties have oft made ane importune, ane oft and happie beggar from that foueraine bountie; yet reafon, confcious of my fmall worth and poore feruices, hath teached to acquiefce euer cheerfullie, with your good pleasure in grant or resusal (whereof I

remember few), without anye curious enquyrie of the motives to the one or vther; refling ever confident, that as I ferve your maieflie with as muche loyaltie, fincere zeale and affection, as euer feruant did mafter, your maieflie (whom God of his mercye to vs, mot long preferve in helth and all profperitie) will neuer fuffer to want, neither me nor the children of

Your most facred Maiesties most faithfull and most humble fervant and creature,

GEORGE HAY.*

Hallir, this 8 off None, 1624.

[Indorfed:]
The Lord Chancellour concerning what paft betwixte him and the Lord Kincleuin, 8 Nouemb. 1624.

CCIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.
[1624?]

My refolution to execute your maiefteis commandements is, and euer fhallbe, fuche as ought in fo meere and obliged a creature; bot becaus I know that, from that fontaine of reafon which inflifiethe all your

[•] George Hay, second son of Peter Hay of Meginche, who was brought up to the profession of the law, was knighted and appointed Clerk Register in 1616. He was made Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, 16th July 1622, upon the death of the Earl of Dunfermline. On the 4th May 1627, he was created Viscount of Duplin, and Lord Hay of Kinfauns, and 24th May 1633, Earl of Kionoul. He died at London, 16th December 1634. His body was conveyed to Scotland, and interred, 19th August 1635, in Kinnoul Church, where a sumptuous monument was creeted to his memory. An account of the ceremonial of his interment will be found in the "Heraldic and Historical Tracts of Sir James Balfour," Edinburgh, 1837. 12mo.

actions, your maiestie is pleased to let flow, even to the meanest ministers, fo muche as may cleare thair proceidings from the blame of groffe and incongruous errours; and that, fince the reffaving off your maiefteis laft inftructions, I can by no meditation licht vpon a faire formulaire of fo round a discharge of all former treaties for mareage as is prescribed by the faid inftructions, and that, by conference with Sir Thomas Edmonds, I finde myfelff rather perplexed further then helped heirin; I haue aduentured by thefe humblie to intreat your maiestie to consider how (in a treatie off mareage, wherin fo many propones and ansueres have bein interchanged, reafons have bein alleaged by aither fyde; a willingnes to performe hathe bein expressed withe protestationnes; a dealing with the king off Spaine during the tyme off this treatie hathe bein furnished by many, boafted of by his ministers, and scairce denyed by your maiesteis; ane extraordinair ambaffadour hathe bein fent out of your bedchamber, with a warrant vnder your great feale, to treate and conclude a mareage), it fall agrie with your maiefteis royalle procedure in all your other actions, that we begin withe a discharge of all former dealing and treaties in that mareage, and that, because your maiestie dothe thinke thair last answers not to be worthy off your maiefteis felff and your fone.

Now, if they aske ws in what poyntes your maiestie dothe finde them onworthy or onreasonable, we must say, aither that your maiestie hathe not bein pleased to let vs know so muche, or cum to the particulars, whiche we dar not, nor may not by our instructionis. And iff we shall stand vpon the discharge of all former dealing, without examination off any article, 3it with whate saces shall we bothe discharge all former treaties, and requyre them to make new offers iff their will have any farther dealing for mareage? May they not justile vrge us to know what conditiones will content vs, since these alreadie made do not? Shall we reiest thair conditiones offered, and propose none for your maiestie?

This feimethe to vs, and we feare shall feim to thame, a harshe and peremptoric forme off dealing in a treatic of marcage with a state and countrey to whome your maiesteis loving care in appearing these last troubles, and the expectation of alliance, hathe so indeared your maiesteis freindship, as hathe bein well testified by the concurse, velcoming accla-

matiounes and prayers for your maiestie, fince my cumming into this land. We think this treatie of mareage micht have bein more easilie, and with lefs din, shaken off by him who hathe delt in it hithertils; and that I, your extraordinarie embassiadour, micht therefter have cum, and to better purpose have talked off the continuance and assurance of your maiesteis friendship towards this king, crovne and cuntrey, rather then with such a neidles sollemnitie off ane extraordinary ambassadour, to proclayme to so michtie and so well assected a nation a neglect of thair alliance. These things I have presumed to represent vnto your maiestie.

[Indorfed:]
Sir George Hay, Chancleour
of Scotland, hes letter to King
James the 6, concerning Prince
Charles hes mariage.

CCX.__JAMES VI. TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

JANUARY 12, 1625.

JAMES R.

Right truftie and right veill belouett counfellour, we greit you veill. Much earnift fuit being made to ws by the French embaffador, in the behalfe of the Roman Catholicks (as they terme them) of that our kingdome, requyring that inregaird of this mariage (vich aught to be a tyme of publique reioyfeing, wherin all perfons ought to be fet at libertie), we vold fhou them fauor, we wer pleafed to ureat to the Archbifchop of St Androus to fu[r]ccafe al troubling of them, ather by citation to compeir befor any judgs or by excommunicatioun, till our furder pleafur fhould be knowen, the faid recufants giving no publick offence. And therfor ve haue thought guide by these presents to accquaint you with our forfaid pleafur, to the intent that, if any bussines fall arasse years.

comunication or horning for mater of religioun vich fall be brought befor our counfell, ye fall caufe it be diffinifed vith the leaft flure or noyfe vich may be: And this recommending to your special care, we bid you fairveill. Giuen at our manour of Theoballds, the 12 day of Januarij 1625.

King James Letter to Sir George Hay, Chancleour, concerning Catholicks, 12 Januarij 1625.

CCXL-JOHN WOLFE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

One Sires, being fervant to Maister Morgan, apothecarye to the lait queen of happie memorie, vrgeing his preferment, and difapoynted of bothe your maiesteis and the queenis service, presumeing vpoun there ignorance who did accompany your maieftie, that thay did not know what was dew to thair placeis, heirypoun most craftelye procured himself to be sworne ferguant of the confectionarye, being a parcell of the anothecare office, and als anothecarve for the houshald: and not heirwith contented, he did also pas a graunt of being fervitour odoriferous to your maiestie, to the queenis highnes and your royall iffew, being a plaice nevir hard of befoir in the court of England (the very fmell whereof hes bein evir onfavory vnto me), onlye vfeing it as a meane by this difmembering the office to difable the poffeffour, and fo to mak him vearye of his plaice: and heirypoun taking hold of Clavies, your maiesteis lait apothecarve his fimplicitie, by the meanis of a fubmiffioun, and the otheris craftie dealing with the arbitouris, Clavie was maid to pairt and devyid the furneifing of wateris, perfumeis, and odouris (whiche did foley and onlye belong to him), with this other new invented feruitour, who, taking boldnes vpoun this advantage, intendit to haif vfed me in lyik foirt,

I being than in fervice with the queenis highnes, bot being loathe to be abuifed, or to lois any pairt of my dew privilegis of my plaice, and flanding out for my right, I wes continowit in the full possessioun. Now, efter it hes pleafed your maiestic to accept me in that fervice, voyde by Clavies deathe, this odoriferous fellow, miftaking his fmell, wald haif the continuance of that abuile in not contenting himself with the plaice of apothecarve of the hous and fericant of confectionarye, bot wald alfo dismember that only one place which I posses. And this fresche water fouldiour nevir preiffing to come one myle abroade in all your maiesteis journayis, dois not theles challenge the perfumes, fueit water is and odouris for your maiesteis presence, and linning, and other occasionis that ar for and inrespect of your maiestie, and no otherwayis; he laying his full accompt that, howevir I did faive myfelf from being wronged in the queenis fervice (vnto the whiche his grant dois beir him alyik), that yit nottheles, vpoun Claveis prefident (whiche I aucht not to acknowledge, heaveing nevir confented thereto), his furnefing in pairt of my office fall continow, and I thereby fo difabled to attend, as by my yeareing, he may atteine to that plaice whiche in conceate he hes already devored. Now, fince the multitude of offices ar a chairge to your maieftie, inregaird no plaice wants a feall, and that it wes weill knowen that no court in all the worlde wes fo perfyite in all memberis as this courte, your maiestie may eafilie conceave what wrong I refaive by this new innovatioun, which evir produces also with it some prejudice to your majestie. And therefoir, as in the tyme of my fervice to the queene, the craftic courfes of this fox did nothing availl him for doing vnto me any prejudice; fo it may pleis your most gratious maiestie not to fuster your poore Wolfe to be any way wronged, howevir this countrey hes bein fatall to that kynd of beift, inregaird of the Prince of Waleis his tribut payed, whereby all my kinfolkes by name war maid ane end of; yit, fince I was nevir no ravenous beift, and flandes now in feire to be robbed, I haif no other recourse, bot to the Lyouns facred patrocinye, humblie entreateing that I may be continowit in the rightis of my plaice whiche ar dew thereto, that fo I may be the better enabled to attend your maiefteis fervice. And, according to

my bound dewtie, I fall pray for your maiesteis long, happie, and prosperous regnne.

Your Maiefties humble fupplicant and daylie fervant,

Johne Wolfe Rumler,•
Apothecarye.

[Indorfed:]
Mr Volfes Letter to the King.

CCXII.-SAMUEL COCKBURN TO KING JAMES VI.+

SIR.

Your facred maieftie, of your accustomit gratius fauor, ordenarlie extendit towards all your faithful subjectis, whereof in my awne particuler I have had so manie testemones, will excuse my bauldness at this tym, forsit be some necessitie, if I presume to interrupt your maiestess more ferius

• "John Wolgango Rumlero was, in 1617, the King's priocipal apothecary, and received for his fee, by the year, L.40, as appears by the abstract of his Majesty's revenue, attached to Truth brought to Light by Time." Nicbols's Progresses of King James, vol. iv. p. 721. In the Epilogue to Ben Jonson's Masque of the Metamorphosed Gipsies, 1621, it is said—

"But, lest it prove like wonder to the sight,

To see a gipsey, as an Æthiop white,

Know, that what dy'd our faces was an ointment

Made and laid on by Master Woolfe's appointment,

The court Lycanthropos."

Gifford's Ben Jonson. London, 1816. Svo. vol. vii. p. 424.

[†] As there are no dates to the Papers that follow, and as some difficulty consequently occurs in the arrangement, it was judged best to place them at the end of the volume.

and weghtie effeares, with the reading of this my humble petitione. Your maiestie, of your gratius and princelie liberalitie, for my great peans bestowet in your maiesteis feruice heir in this cuntrie, and dyuers voyages to your court, grantit wnto me a gift of the escheatis of all such as wer put to the horne for not confirming of testamentis; wherewith the bishops, finding themfelues fomewhat interest in there particuler, dealt with your maiestie for the benefeit thereof, and with me for my good will, which whan I knew to be agreable to your maiefteis plefur, wpon fome conditions, I yealdit wnto. But now of leat, when the bishopis wer about to haue there gift confirmit be your maiesteis counsel and officers of your fleat in this kingdome, thay fand the mater of fuch importance, and fo prejudiciall to your majefties regal authoritie and puir heir, that in no ways could there grave wifdoms be mouet to affent therto, but to fignifie the importance and weght of that buffines to your maiefteis felfe to determine therevpon: Wherby the houp of that recompence of my feruice is altogider takin from me, and I compeled to have recourfe to your maiesteis princelie and gratius fauor. It hes plesit your facred maiestie to imploy me in fome charges heir of great peane and trauel, without any profeit, and fubicat to the envye of the greatest, which not vithstanding, in respect of your maiesteis service, I did neuer regerd. I take your maiesteis whol counsel to record of my behauiour and peans in dischargin therof: And my esteat wer such as might winderly this burdin without my wter overthro, I would be forie to importune your gratius maiestie, and principallie at fuch a tym. And fo, referring the trew report heirof to your maiesteis graue and wyfe counfel, your maiesteis trefurer deputie, who knawes the whol fteat and counfelis mynd therin, I in al humilitie, with my ernest prayer for your facred maiestie and royel esteat, shal euer remane

> Your facred Maiesteis most loyel and faithful subject,

> > SAMUEL COKBURNE.

To the King his facred Maiestie.

CCXIII.—WITNESSIS PRODUCEIT BE ALEXANDER INNES OF COITTIS
AGAINES THE LAIRD OF BALVANE AND HIS BROTHER.

Maister James Guthrie, Minister at Vrquhart, sworne, and demandit quhat he knawis anent the libell; deponis, that he wes defyreit be the good man of Cokfloun and the goodeman of Coittis, to go with thame to the tryft appoyntit to be keipit at Haltoun the day libellit, and to bring with him the testament of vingulile James Innes of Haltoun, for fleing the goodis mentionat thairin compryfit; and accordinglie Alexander Innes of Coittis come to the deponneris house the day lybellit, and tooke the deponner with him to the tryift. Alexander Innes, bruther to Balvany, come thair about the evining, and faluted the haill perfones at the tryft, and conferrit a litle with Williame Innes of Coittis, and thairefter pretending that he wald ryde that nycht to Elgin, the goodeman of Cokstoun invited him to stay with him; who answerit he wald not flav, and raid away, as it feamed to the deponner towardis Elgin, and wes not fene agane, quhill he was fene in company with his bruther at the fact lybellit: And as the guidman of Coittis, the deponner and Andro Innes wer ryding hame by Vrquhart to the Coittis, thay mett in the way the goodeman of Letterfourie, who, after fome litle privat conference with the goodeman of Coittis, tauld him that in the way he faw fome aught or nyne horffe in the mure, whome he thoght to have bene his young cheif, the Lord Gordoun; and he preaffing to haue riddin to thame, and addreffing himfelff towardis thame, thay efchewit him and fled, as not willing to be fene; And with this, Letterfourie takis goodenycht and raid towardis Elgin, and the goodeman of Coittis and the deponner rydding the hie way home to thair housse, thay tooke vp thir horffe in the mure, who come fordwart taking the way, as it feemed, to Vrguhart, and not directlie to thame; quhilk quhen the goodeman of Coittis perfaueit, he faid to the deponner, "It is fome folkis of Geycht going to my house:" My wyff wes ay vntymous to haif left her house in mercat tyme; and then thay haveing tint fight of thir horsemen, throw

occasioun of a little howe in the way, at thair first kytheing agane vpoun the hight, within a litle speace afoir the deponner, thay kaift thair clokis frome thame, and drew thair fwordis, and come galloping towardis the faid Alexander Innes of Coittis, quhilk, quhen he perfaved, he faid, "It is fome vnfreindis." The deponner answerit that thay wer mistaken, for thair wes no vulaughfull perfone heir; and Andro Innes faid, "I trow yow fall find thame vnfreindis:" And quhen thay come neir, the deponner knew nane of them bot Balvennie himfelff and his bruther Alexander; bot one who callit himfelff George Cuming, faying his mother wes a Innes, advanceit foirmest, and he strooke at the goodman of Coittis, bidding him be tane; and the goodman lightand, drew his fword, and rebaitting the first straik, wes hurt with his awne sword a litle aboue the ey, to the effusioun of his bloode; and the haill remanent persones come fordwart and strooke at the goodeman of Coittis, bot thair fwordis lighted vpoun George Cumingis fword, fua that it appeirit to the deponner thay haid not a purpois to flay him. Then the deponner turneing and abyding with Balvanie, guho had his fword lykewayes drawne, bot strooke not, the deponner faid to Balvanie, "Allace, Sir, that yow fould behald this, for thair wes other thingis lippynnit of yow in the country." Balvany anfuerit, "Yow ar a man that feares God, Maister James: I have borne more of that companyoun nor flefche and bloode could degeift:" And Balvany turneing to Coittis, faid, "Thou haid no mynd of this, quhen after the bifchoppis coppis, in thy drukinnes thow faid, thou wes als goode as myfelf; quhairin thow leis, and may not compair with me." Coittis answerit, he fpak not these wordis in that sense and meaning. Balvanie thairafter commandit him to fitt down on his knees, and alk him forgifnes; quhilk Coittis flowlie and fmoothlie, with fome difcontentment, did. And depones, he knawis not how the goodman of Coittis fword wes takin frome him, or restoirit to him, in respect of his contenowall instance with Balvanie; and depones, that Balvanie, at the inputting of his fword, and calmeing of thir thingis, fpak thir wordis to the goodeman of Coittis, "Sie, Coittis, as thow wilbe anfuerabill to thy wyff and bairnes, ypoun the perrell of thy lyff, that thair be no moir din of thir thingis:" Quhairvnto Coittis ansuerit this only, "Thair is ouer many behalderis fua to do."

And depones, that afoir Balvany finderit frome Coittis, the faid Alexander Innes, Balvanyes bruther, haueing his drawne fword fhaiking ouer Coittis head, faid to the laird his brother, "Alaice, Sir, gif ye wer away;" unto whome the deponner anfuerit, "Thair hes bene ouer meikle of this alreddy."

Andro Innes, in the barne yaird of Innes, fworne and examinat, deponis, conformis primo testi in omnibus, addende that he threw the goodeman of Coittis fword oute of Alexander Innes brother to the Laird of Balvany his hand.

[Indorfed:]
Mr James Gutheries depositions
in the cause betwixte Baluanie
and Cotes.

CCXIV.—INFORMATIOUN FOR THE ADWOCATTIS AND REMANENT MEM-BERIS OF THE SESSIOUN TUICHING THAIR PRIVILEDGES.

FIRST, The Seffioun and College of Justice ar exemit fra all taxationnes in the erection thairof in anno 1537.

And quhair it may be obiectit that thair is no mentioun thairin of Aduocattis Clerkis, and Wrytteris, it is answerit thairto, that the Sessioun and College of Justice most comprehend thairin all memberis, becaus the faid exemptioun man be vnderstoud according to the sens, and not according to the letter; vtherwayes the same exemptioun salbe altogidder personall, becaus it speikis allenarlie of the Lordis of Sessioun that then wer, and dois not extend verbalie to thair successiouris, quhilk wer absurd.

Item, The abfurditie of the faid first act is cleirit be the subsequent

act of parliament, quhilk ratifies the faidis prinilegis, and declairis the fame to have bene gevin to the College of Juftice and memberis, for the quhilk we haif xiii or xiiij actis of parliament.

Item, Our faidis priuilegis ar cleirit be our lang and peaceable pofferfioun be the space of lxxx yeires; quhilk possession is proven be the buikis and registeris of the comptis of the taxatiounes subscrivit be the commissionaris of parliament, and be the decreittis and sentences gevin baith befoir commissionaris of parliament and Lordis of Session, quhair we ar fund to be exemit fra all taxatiounes.

Item, His maiestie hes remowit all doubt quhilk may be obiectit to our priuileges, in sa far, in August 1588, quhen the realme and the religioun was threatnit be the Spanzeardis, his heires did not vrge ws to pay taxatioun, bot did gratiouslie except of ws, ane voluntar and frie contributioun than offerit be ws to his maiestie, being sitting in ane session in prefens of the haill lordis; quhilk acceptatioun is registrat in the buik of statutis of the College of Justice.

Item, Albeit we wer not able to fchaw ane express grant of our priuileges, maid at the erectioun of the College of Justice; 3it our possession be the felff is sufficient to mentene ws; becaus be speciall act of parliament maid in Junij 1594, his maiestie and estaitis hes ratisfiet our priuileges maid to the memberis of the College of Justice, not onlie as the same ar contenit in the erection thairof, bot also as the same hes bene bruikit and possess we sensyne; sua that our possession with this act gevis we are full priuilege.

Item, His maiestie hes declarit ws to be exemit fra all contributioun of taxatiounes with the burrowis, quhairof we haif ane special act in Junij 1592, cap. 15, 3; be the quhilk act, his maiestie and estaitis, confidering that the taxatiounes upon the realme wer multiplied, and the burrowis hauelie burdenit, and thairsoir hes statut and ordanit that all inhabitantis within burrowis fall contribut to taxatiounes for thair releiff; bot that,

with this expres declaration, that the fame fall nawayes prejudge the memberis of the College of Juflice thair priniledges and immunities grantit to thame, or quhairof they haif bene in vfe in tyme bygane, and giue we be frie fra all contributioun of taxatioun with the burrowis (as we ar be this act), we man alfo be frie from the reft, feing we haif bene in possefficioun alyk of baithe; and it wer ane absurd thing to mantene that we wer exemit from ane pairt, and not from the rest, that is to fay, baith exemit and not exemit.

Item, The ordour of taxatioun in fpeciall a&t of parliament, maid in December 1595, fett down and declairit be his maieftie and eftaitis. In the quhilk a&t, the memberis of the College of Justice ar declarit to be privilegit and exemit, and als his maieftie hes thairby declarit his gratious will and mynd that he intendis not to hurt privileges dirogat nor prejudgit, and thairfoir, feing his maieftie being prefent amangis ws, wes grationslie pleifit to mantene our privileges, it was ane hard preparative to infringe them now in his hienes absens.

Item, We ar certanlie informit that it is [his] hienes will, that no man nor perfones be hurt or prejudgit in thair priuileges, bot that all be movit and perfuadit to contribute at this tyme, in refpect of the weichtines and necessitie of the caus; quhilk we, to fignific our affectionnes to his maieflie, ar most willing to do, our primileges being referuit.*

Item, It is humlie defyrit that the eftaitis confidder how dangerous it is to begin notatioun, and to quarrell mens priuileges and prefcriptioun heirof be fourfcoir yeires poffeffioun, for omiffioun of ane word, for this thaireftir may be drawin to thair awin priuiledgis, feing thair ar fundrie priuileges pertening to ilk ane of the eftaitis feueralie, and to them all in generall, quhilk hes no warrand be writt or law, bot only lenis to cuftome and prefcriptioun of tyme; and thairfoir it is defyrit, that they on na wayes gif thair confent nor writt be this notatioun.

[·] This probably refers to the contribution for the Palatinate.

CCXV.—THE ACCOMPT OF MY DILIGENS IN THE SERVICE COMMITTED TO MEE, WITH A MOTION COMMENDED TO HIS MAIESTIE FROM HIS EMBASSADOUR AT THE HAGHE.

After my difpatche at Beauer Caftle, I did with all diligens adreffe myfelfe to the Lowe Cuntries, where, within foure dayes after I did ar-

. This singularly valuable paper contains a narrative, by Patrick Scot, of his expedition to Holland, in order to secure, if not assassinate, David Calderwood, the Church Historian, who fled there to escape the vengeance of James VI., which had been roused against him, as author of the "Perth Assembly, containing -1. The proceedings thereof. 2. The proof of the nullitie thereof. 3. Reasons presented thereto against the receiving the five new Articles imposed. 4. The oppositenesse of it to the proceedings and outh of the whole state of the land, an. 1581. 5. Proofs of the unlawfulnesse of the said fine Articles, viz .-- 1. Kneeling in the act of receiving the Lord's supper. 2. Holy daies. 3. Bishopping. 4. Private Baptisme. 5. Private Communion." 1619. 4to. Calderwood having been carefully concealed, his death was rumoured, and Scot thought this an admirable opportunity for gratifying his Majesty, and vexing the refractory clergy, by forging a recantation, which was skilfully done, in a work with the following title :--" Calderwood's Recantation, or a Tripartite Discourse, directed to such of the Ministerie and others in Scotland, that refuse Conformitie to the Ordinances of the Church. Wherein the causes and bad effects of such Separation, the legall proceedings against the refractarie, and nullitie of their cause, are softly launced, and they louingly inuited to the Vniformitie of the Church. Epist. Iam. cap. 3: Vbi Zelus et Contentio, ibi Inconstantia et omne opus prauum. London, printed by Bernard Alsop, dwelling in Distaffe Lane, at the signe of the Dolpbin, 1622." 4to. The introductory notice is dated "Amsterdam, this 29th of Nouember 1622," and the general appearance of the work was such as to induce a belief of its reality. Unfortunately for this conspiracy against his fair fame, Calderwood was alive and able to expose it, which be lost no time in doing.

The following account of the matter is from his Church History (MS. Advocates' Library), vol. xv. p. 1209;—"Patricke Scot, a landed gentleman, beside Falkland, having waisted the money that he had, had no other meanes to recover his estate, but by some unlawful shift at court. He set furth a Recantation under the name of a banished minister, Mr David Calderwood, but soon after came furth a Latine worke initiated Altare Damascenum, which testified to the world, that he was farre from minding any recantatione, and that he was yett living: for the Recantatione was sett furth upon a report that he was dead. The truth is, he was deadly sicke, and if he had died, the Recantatione had gone for current as his. But the devise turned to the shame of the devisers; he confessed himself, that the King furnished him matter, and he set it down in forme. This course failling, he went over to Holland—sought the said Mr David at the Hague, at Delf, at Amsterdam, and other towns, in the moneth of November; pretending to such as he thought favoured the said Mr David, that he had a thousand pounds to deliver to him, which was collected among weill affected people at home; and offered money to some to reveal where the said Mr David was. Noe doubt the man was imployed to seeke his life, and murther him privatly; which was easie for him to doe, if he had been there under cloud of night, when the said Mr David was to come from the Scottish inne to his owne chamber,

ryne, findinge by my intelligens at Roterodam, that the perfon after whome I enquyred was latelie removed, I came to the Haghe, where I delinered his majefties letter to the embaffadour, with that which was referred to my relation, which hee verie dutifully receaued, and promifed his best indenouris to further this feruice, tellinge mee there was a yeare and more past, since vpon viewe of that pairties labouris, his eie had bine vpon him; but (lyke a foxe when hee offendeth) hee had learned a tricke to keepe himselse obscure or out of the way.

The Embaffadouris aduyfe was (for flunninge of difcouery), that before ane motion were made to the States, I fhould labour by all meanes to learne the certaintie of his refidens; foe, refoluinge vpon the fitteft places and perfons by whome intelligens might be had, I did returne backe to Campheare, from that to Dort, from thence to Roterodam, and then to Leyden; in all which places I learned hee had bine, but could find noe prefent certantie of him.

either by shooting him in the water, or otherwise, not fearing evill of the man he had never seen hefore. After he had stayed at Amsterdam seventy days, and inquired diligently, he was informed that the said Mr David was at home in his oun native countrie of Scutland; and soe he returned to court disappointed. His dependence, for the most part, was upon the Viscount of Annan, a man unknown likewise to the said Mr David, be whom he was bounded out." See also the learned biographical account of Calderwood, in the last edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The following anecdote of Scot is given at length, by Calderwood, in his MS. history:—An Englishman had bought a piece of land, and promised to pay part of the price on a certain day. When the time came, he could not raise the money, and he was threatened with 'the extremity of the law.' He went to Londoo, and walking 'in Paul's church, and pensive, made his own mone to a Scotish man malking there,' and 'offered him a reward if he could procure the King's protection.' The Scotch man replied that he had no court influence, but observing Scot, who probably had been dining with Duke Humphrey, he said, '1 see one walking hard by, his name is Mr Scot, he can doe your turne.' An introduction followed—Scot demanded fifty pounds for his patronage, but took thirty, and the Englishman's horse worth five pounds, giving him 'a packald, as it were of letters sealed,' to be delivered to the persons to whom they were addressed. Alas, these missives were as deceptive as his satanic majesty's coin, for when opened by the individuals to whom they were presented, there was nothing inside. As a fitting termination to this adventure, the poor applicant for royal protection was cast into prison. Of course, this story coming from the pen of an enemy must be received with caution, but we much fear that the moral principles of the fabricator of "Calderwood's Recantation" would not operate as any bar to his defrauding the poor Englishman of his money.

"After the death of King James, he sett out a paniphlet full of lies, initialed 'Vox Vera,' but as true as Lucian's Vera Historia. For all his godlesse and unlawfull shiftis, he died soon after, see poor, that he had not wherewith to hear the charges of his buriall, but it behoved the Bishope of Ross to bear the charges of it, for the good service he had done to the King and the Bishops."

At laft (after twentie dayes were thus confumed) I repaired to Vtereght, where Mr. Scot that wrote Vox Populi* dothe remaine, with whome I did foe infinuat myfelfe, that within twoe dayes hee did tell mee, that my freind whome I faid I was defirous to fee was at Amfterdam, but (as the embaffadour had faid before) hee thought hee fhould be hardlie inquyred after; yet did hee direct mee to an inne keeper, to a booke feller, and to a printer, of his acquaintance, fome of whome (hee faid) might perhapps bringe mee to the knowledge of the man whome I defired to fee.

At my cominge to Amfterdam, and three dayes converfinge with those to whome Mr Scot directed mee, I did learne that the partie was in toun; vet by noe meanes durft I reueale myfelfe further to them (they beinge ftricke Puritans), then that I had hard much good of the man, and was defyrous to fee and have fome of his workes. The booke feller told mee, that one Johne Hamleton, a religious merchaunt of Edenboroughe, had transported the most part of them to Scotland this last yeare; yet at night he promifed to goe to a freind that had the fellinge of the remanent, wherby I conicctured that it was the author that had bothe the keepinge and fellinge of those bookes, foe I did carefullie watche the booke feller's oute goinge at night, whoe did goe directlie to the printer's house, where the parties refidens is, as before I had learned from dyners perfons by infalible circumftances. When I had done this, I returned to the embaffadour, tould him I had found the parties refidens, and defired that hee would be pleafed to procure the States warrant, and I should doe my best to enforce the printer's house, and sease upon his ghueft.

The embaffadour aunswered, that he would willinglie moue the States to this effect, but hee much feared that the motion might marre the busines, inregard the partie was kept foe close amongst those of his owen profession, and that it was to be doubted that some amongst the States, without whome he could get noo warrant, were his special freinds, and would aduertise him before anie warrant could be served. Secondlic,

Vox Populi, or Newes from Spaine. 1620, 4to. By Thomas Scot. He was author of numerous political tracts, of which there was a very complete collection in the Gordonston Library, sold in March 1816.

The embaffadour told mee there was another motion in hand (where Mr. Johne Forbes was directed to give his maieftie information), that might in fhort time procure a generall warrant from the States for apprehension of all delinquents of this nature, without furpition of aime at any particular person.

For these reasons, hee thought good to let the motion 1 defyred sleepe till his majestic were advertised of the conveniencie of the other.

Becaus ficknes and the roughness of this winter season did lett M^r. John Forbes from vndertakinge iornay towards England, as hee intended, the embassadour did thinke fitt that I should supplie M^r. John his place in preferringe these instructions to his majesties confideration, which I should haue, and his letter to this purpose. When I had receaued his letter, conceaued the instructions, and goten direction to M^r. John Forbes to give me particular information of the former proceedings, I tooke my leave, and came to Delphe, where M^r. John Forbes did deliver mee the substance of the ensuinge motion.

THE MOTION.

Vpon a ferious confideration of the loofenes of lyfe, and feandalus behauiour of manie bothe Englishe and Scots ministers resident in the Vnited Provinces, and more frequent refort of others then before, the Dutche ministers, oute of theire care to have such feandalus presidents in the Church repressed, were content to ioyne with the Englishe and Scots ministrie, in petitioninge vnto the States, that an act from them might be established, authorizinge them to reforme such abuses wherose they did complaine, and depose from the ministrie all such as should be found faultie in lyse or doctrine, or that did prejudice the vnitie of the Church and dignitie of theire cuntry, by preachinge, wrytinge, or anie other meanes, then theire profession and good order would allowe. This correspondens of the Dutche Churche was soe well lyked by the best fort of the Englishe and Scots ministers, that furthwith they apointed Mr. John Forbes to deale with the rest of the ministrie to affemble at the

Haghe, where, by affiftance of his maiefties embaffadour, they might concurre for the advancement of foe neceffarie a motion; which accordinglie Mr. John Forbes performed, in affemblinge afwell the Dutche as Englishe and Scots ministers at the Haghe.

But at theire first meetinge the motion was obtain by a proposition (as it apeared finisterlie thrust in) made by one M^r. Allexander Mackdusse, minister at Campheare, whoe desired in his maiesties behalfe, that there might be a constant moderatour chosen, and that three, at least twoe, names might be set downe and sent to his maiestie, that hee might make choose of one of them.

This proposition was so distastfull to the Dutche Churche, that they presentlie broke vpp, and refused to ioyne anie surther in that motion, which they did conceaue directlie tended to the crection of bishops: Yet the most part of the Englishe and Scots ministrie did conclude for giuinge his maiestie all possible fatisfaction on their parts, that Mr. John Forbes should be fent to England to give true information of the convenience of the first course, and to supplicat his royall approbation and affistance, that it may goe one as it was first propounded, for three speciall reasons:—

- 1. Reafon.—First, It will curbe all lewde, infolent, or vnqualified perfons, that daylie, without order, intrude themselues in the ministrie, and line lyke libertins, without makinge confciens of theire profession, to the difference of the Churche, and reproache of theire cuntry.
- 2. Reason.—Secondlie, If this beginninge had once taken effect, it wilbe a special meanes to represse as well the insolent wrytings of fugitiues, resorters, or residents, as the seismes that daylie sale oute heare, which cannot but vnquyet bothe Churche and State at home.
- 3. Reafon.—Thirdlie, His maiefties approbation and affiftance of this motion, will vindicat him from those iealousies which the Dutche Churche (prompted with some ill affected persons) conceaue that his maiefties intention is to bringe in Episcopall government amongst them, if not Po-

pifme itself: Of the first theire cuntry is not capable, churche reuenues beinge destitute to other publicke vses, and irreconerable; and the other they cannot hear named with patiens.

This is the fumme of that which the Embaffadour and Mr. John Forbes by his direction did deliuer unto mee, bothe feriously regratinge the mifdemeanouris of fuch whose disloyall labouris are daylie vented, to the greefe of euery good subject.

Thus, after long flay at Flushinge, and foure repulses by contrary winds, ame I returned, referringe the premisses, with such other observations as I have sett down apart, to his maiesties royall consideration.

THREE SHORT OBSERUATIONS.

- 1. First, I obserue, that the correspondens betwixe the Puritans of Scotland and those of the Lowe Cuntries, dothe rather increase than diminishe, wherby it faleth oute, that by comunitie of Puritan seminaries, and correspondens from Scotland, the most part of his maiesties subjects inhabiting in the Lowe Cuntries, are not onelie addicted to Puritanisme, readie to intertaine the badest impressions of their owen state, but to cherishe aswell sedition, lybillis, and rebellious notions, as the authors therose.
- 2. Secondlie, I find that the contempt of bifchops, and the wrytinge bothe against theire persons and gouernment, is much applauded in the Vnited Provinces, which cometh (as I conceaue) thoroughe the neglect of correspondens, wherose they have little or none either to advance theire well, or oppose theire prejudice.
- 3. Thirdlie, I have learned that the caufe of the comunitie of forbiden bookes, both heare and in the Lowe Cuntryes, proceedeth from the correspondens that is kept betwixe the printers and stationers in England, Scotland, and there. If there be heare a copy that cannot be printed without danger, it is conveyed to Amsterdam, where it is faislie printed,

returned, and fould at a tenn-fould deerer rate then anie other booke whatfoeuer. I have diligentlie marked this abufe, and I do werelie thinke that without stricke animaduersion, it will rather increase then become lesse.

[Indorfed:]

Patricke Scott, his Accompt of his Diligens.*

A letter from Sir Dudley Carleton, Ambassador to the States, relative to Patrick Scot's transactions in Holand, and addressed to James VI. is printed in the Analecta Scotica, vol. ii. p. 433. Scot complains that he held, in Holland, every "Bookseller's shop and most Pedlars' stalles loaden with the Nullitic of Perthe's Assembly, the Altar of Damascus, the Dialogue betwixt Theophilus and Cosmophilus, the Speech of the Church of Scotland to her Beloued Children, and the Course of Conformitie joyned with all these (severally printed before), reprinted in one volume, and to be sold at no lesse a rate then if they had been oracles of Apollo." See "Vox Vera, or Observations from Amsterdam, examining the late insolencies of some Pseudo-Puritanes, seperatists from the church of Great Brittaine, and closed vp with a serious three-fold advertisement for the generall vse of every good subiect within his Maiesties dominions, but more especially of those in the kingdome of Scotland." London, 1625, 4to. p. 3. It is dedicated to King Charles I. He was also probably the author of "A Table-Book for Princes, containing Short Remembrances for the Government of Themselves and their Empire," &c. London, 1621. 12mo; a copy of which is No. 2095 of the Gordonston Catalogue.

The Altar of Damascus, above mentioned, was the English edition, now very scarce, which was subsequently enlarged, translated into Latio, and published, first, in 1623 (no place), and secondly, "Lugd.-Bat. 1708," both in 4to. At the end of the English work is the following very curious paragraph, in which the venerable primate of Scotland is spoken of in terms by no means flattering:—" Bishop Spotswood hath spread a rumour, that M. David Calderwood is turned Brownist; but I assure thee, good reader, it is not true. That old impudent lyar bath, together with his supposed authour, a young man, trimmed up a tale with many circumstances, to make the misreport the more credible. But if ever he required by letter, the judgement, either of that supposed authour, or of any other man else, anent their opinions, then let him never be reputed for an honest man hereafter. If he had doubted, he would not have sought resolution from yong schollers, and unsetled brains. The ground being false, all the rest of the circumstances builded upon it are knavish forgeries also. If either Spotswood, or his supposed authour, persist in their calumnic after this declaration, I shall try if there be any bloud in their foreheads."

It is, perhaps, almost unnecessary to add, that the "young man" is evidently intended for Patrick Scot.



INDEX.



INDEX.

A .

Abbas, Shail, solicits the assistance of James VI. against the Turks, 41, 42, 43.

Abbot, George (Archbishop of Canterbury), informs John Murray that he bas found suspicions against Richard Ball groundless, 231; and of his endeayours fur conversion of Mr Dorrell from Popery, 232.

Abercorn, James, first Earl of, reports proceedings at meeting of Synod of Clydesdale to the king, 117; and that the Archbishop of Glasgow has been admitted as their moderator after much opposition, ib., 118; mentions prosecution of Papists, 119; has not interfered in behalf of Laird of Auchindrane, 127, 128, 129; apprehends the Laird of Auchindrane, 132; about to sail for Ireland on the king's service, 229, 230; engaged in adjusting differences between Sir James Hamilton and Sir Hugh Montgomery, 233; has had 2000 Scotch retainers of these gentlemen present at a hunting with him, ib.; mentions proposal to levy a voluntary supply to his majesty throughout Ireland, ib., 234, 239; desires the good offices of John Murray in Sir llugh Montgomery and Sir James Hamilton's matters, 239; and wishes to be informed as to proposed creation of two Irish barons, ib., 240.

Aberdeen, presbytery of, to ministers of Lothian regarding excommunication of Earl of Huntly, 33, 34.

-----, articles given in by the justices of peace for, for the reformation of certain abuses, 300.

Advocates, exempt from taxation, 382; privileges of them and other members of College of Justice, 353, 354.

Aersens, C., 28.

Aitchison, Captain, seizure by his children of a war ship belonging to the Estates of Flanders in security of debt due to him, 112.

Alexander, Sir William (afterwards Earl of Stirling), 216.

Altenburgh, besieged by the Bassa of Bude, 26. Amiens, siege of, 35, and note.

Angus, William, tenth Earl of, explains his conduct in parliament, 58, 59; asks leave of the king to send his second son to the baths in Lorraine, 62, 63; has taken the oath of supremacy, ih.; imputes his majesty's displeasure against him to the misrepresentations of his enemies, 132; prays to be removed from his present place of confinement, 133; excommunicated by General Assembly, 144, 145; has written the particulars of his meeting with the pope's

nuncio to Sir Alexander Hay, 160, 161; asks leave to return home for a short space to arrange his affairs, and to take a last leave of his friends, 174; allowed to quit the country, 190; warrant in his favour by the king, 191.

Angus, William, eleventh Earl of, writes the king regarding calumnies against him on the subject of his religion, 266, 267.

Annand, Viscount, John Murray, letter to him from Earl of Buccleuch regarding Francis Stewart, 351, 352; Thomas Nicolson applies to him regarding postmastership of Coldbrandspeth, 353; congratulated by Viscount Stormont on his elevation to the peerage, 354, 355; letter to him from Sir James Baillie, 358; Viscount Landerdale solicits his interest in behalf of Rev. James Lauder, 360; letter from Sir James Baillie to him, 361.

Annandale, want of jail in, complained of, 205.

Anne of Denmark (wife of James VI.), her dispute with Earl of Mar regarding the custody of Prince Charles, 48, and note, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55; her journey to England, 57.

Arbroath, charter of the lordship of, granted to Marquis of Hamilton, 125.

Arescott, Duke of, 3.

Argyle, Earl of, his prosecution of the Clan Gregor, 72; his daughter's marriage, 101; negotiations with him, 335; verses by Craig of Rosecraig upon him, note, ib.

Argyle, Anne, Countess of, accuses John Rattray and his wife of theft, 312, 313.

Arnot, Sir John, elected Provost of Edinburgh, 153.

Articles of Perth, opinion regarding them sent by Rev. Patrick Galloway to James VI., 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310; written against by David Calderwood, note, 385.

Ashburnham, John, recommends James Reid to Lord Chancellor Hay, 363, 364, and note.

Assembly, General, commissioners of, report proceedings of Assembly at Linlithgow to the king, 92; informed by the Rev. Patrick Symsone of his conference with the Marquis of Huntly, 163, 164.

Athol, country of, in great disorder, 94, 98; tranquillity restored by royal commission, 157.

——, Earl of, 102; escapes and raises commotion in Athol, 156; his demission, 280, 281.

___, John, sixth Earl of, note, 321.

Auchindrane, Laird of, 117, 118, 119, 120; apprehended by Earl of Abercorn, 132; examined, 154; petition for his and his son's being put to the torture, 155, 156.

Auchmootic, John, marries daughter of Sir William Setoun, 289.

Ayr, town of, devastated by the plague, 91.

B.

BACON, Sir Nicolas, letter to Queen Elizaheth, 1; apprehensive of danger from France and Spain mentions policy to be pursued—Scotish nobility to be liberally bribed, 2, 3, and note, 4.

Baillie, Sir James, writes to Viscount Annand regarding competition for the Justice-clerkship, 358; letter to Viscount Annand on miscellaneous matters, 361.

Balfour, James, of Pitcullo, 5, and note.

Ball, Richard, 231.

Balmerino, Lord, Sir James Elphinstone (Secretary for Scotland), apprises the king of proceedings at meeting of Estates, 65, 66, and note; vindicates himself from accusations against him, 79, 80; reports proceedings of council, in settlement of the feud betwixt the Earls of Eglintoun and Glencairn, 96, 97; and that sittings of conncil are interrupted by the plague, 98; letter to the king, on appointment of Sir Alexander Drummond as a judge of the Court of Session, 131, 132.

Balvany, Laird of, witnesses produced against him, 380, 381, 382.

Bannatyne, James, recommended by commissioners of burghs as a fit person to take charge of the post between Edinburgh and London, 135. Barganie, Thomas of, instigated to the murder of the tutor of Cassillis by the Laird of Auchindrane, 128.

Barnevelt, John of Olden, note, 5.

Berwick, Lord, George Home, afterwards Earl of Dunbar, 67; see Earl of Dunbar.

Birnie, Mr William, 118, and note.

Biron, Charles Gontault, Duke de, conspiracy of, 44, and note.

Bishop, synod of Clydesdale object to being moderated by a, 117, 118, 119, 120.

Blantyre, Lord, his feud with Earl of Wigtoun and Master of Montrose, 97; informs the king of escape of Earl of Athole, 156.

Blyth, Mr Henry, solicits intercession of Reverend Henry Charteris, for obtaining a reversal of his sentence, 330, 331.

Bonitoun, John Murray's action with, Lord Dunfermline promises to conclude it, 318, 361.

Books proscribed in England and Scotland, customary to send them to Holland and the United Provinces to be printed, 391.

Borders, commissions for their pacification, 72, 89; suppression of turbulent Border clans by Earl of Dunbar, 172, 173.

_____, commissioners of, their right to pursue and apprehend fugitives in the opposite kingdom, 356.

bulen state of the Borders, and the remissness of the officers of the crown in enforcing the laws, 179, 180, 181, 182.

Bothwell, Francis, titular Earl of, 218; requests John Murray to second bis petition to the king, 282; thanks the king for favours done him, 294, and note, 295; see Francis Stewart.

, Francis Stewart, forfeited Earl of, note, 352.

Bouillon, Monsieur de, 14.

Brissac, Marechal de, 45.

Bruce, Mr Edward, afterwards Lord Kinloss, appointed ambassador to Queen Elizabeth, 7.

—, Reverend Rubert, confined by the king's order, 318.

Bryce, Reverend Edward, hostile to appointment of Archbishop of Glasgow as moderator of synod, 118.

Buccleuch, Lord Scott of, informs John Murray of delinquencies of Robin Elliot, 271, 272; writes Viscount Annuand regarding Francis Stowart, forfeited Earl of Bothwell, 351; lis complaint against Sir Ralph Gray's people, 356, 357.

Buchan, James Erskine, afterwards Earl of, marries Mary, in her own right, Countess of Buchan, 290.

Buchanan, Sir John, 362.

Buckingham, Duke of, about to go to France, 369. Bude, Bassa of, besieges Altenburgh, 26.

Burghs of Scotland, reasons for, in support of their freights of foreign ships, 243.

—— commissioners of, protest ignorance of supply granted to banished ministens, 134; promise to be more watchful of proceedings of Papists and Jesuits in future, ib., 135; solicit pardon for baving taken illegal rates of interest, 202, 203; petition for release from duties on staple commodities, 203; and from bygone duties on goods imported from England, 204; desire to be freed from use of bullion in the intercourse of trade, ib.

Burnett, Rev. James, wishes to be translated to the cure of Libberton, 360.

Burntisland, Lord, represents the flourishing state of Scotland to the king, and eulogizes the Earls of Dunbar and Dunfermline, 196, 197, 198—220, and note.

C.

CAITHNESS, disturbance in, and barn-yards of Lord Forbes burnt, 274.

_____, Earl of, appeals to the king against accu-

sations circulated against him, 287, and note, 288.

Calderwood, David (church historian), escapes into

Holland, and is pursued by Patrick Scot, 385; is traced by him to Amsterdam, 387; notes from his MS. History of the Church, 380, 385.

Campbell, Sir Duncan (of Glennrquhy), complains to the king of depredations by the Clangregor, and represents danger of allowing Robin Abbroche M'Gregor to repossess his lands, 209, 210, and note.

Campvere, appointment of minister at, 134. Canongate, magistrates of, petition the king to expede

an act of parliament in their favour, 207, 208.

Canterbury, Archbishop of, see George Abbot.

Carco, heir of, 258.

Carey, Sir Robert, 40, and note.

Carrick, disturbance there, 55, 57.

Carse, John, letter from him to the Bishop of Ross, 248, 249,

Caschogill, Laird of, see David Douglas, 337.

Cashel, archbishoprick of, promised to Dr Archibald Hamilton, 332.

Cassillis, Earl of, urges the king to order the Lairds of Auchindrane to be put to the torture of the boots, 155, 156.

-, tutor of, Thomas of Barganie instigated to murder him by the Laird of Auchindrane, 118; trial of his murderers, 154.

Catholies, Roman, prosecutions against them to be discontinued, 373.

Cecil, Robert, Lord Burleigh, note, 38.

Charles, Prince (son of James V1.), state of his bealth, 46, 55: Marquis of Huntly recommended to him by his father, note, 123; treaties regarding his marriage, 373, 374, 375.

Charteris, Reverend Henry, his good offices solicited by Mr H. Blyth, 330.

Charters, falsification of, common, 272.

Chevereux, Mons. de, 368.

Cheyne, Alexander, tried before secret council for assault upon a tenant of Lord Glamis, 69; sentenced to be beheaded, 70.

Chichester, Sir Arthur (Lord Deputy of Ireland), letter to him from the king, recommending Lord Ochiltree, 201.

Churchealdye (Kirkaldy), 121.

Cicogna, Doge Pascal de, note, 9.

Clandooald, 246.

Claneboys, lordship of, 251, and note, 253.

Clangregor, 47, 51, 52, 56, 72, 94, 98, 178, 290.

Clergy, English and Scotch, resident in the United

Provinces, loose life and scandalous behaviour of many of them, 388; Dutch clergy unite with them for the reformation of abuses, ib.

Clydesdale, synod of, 117.

Coals, petition by the burghs for restraint on transport of, 147, 148; the Chancellor and remanent Lords of the College of Justice receive instructions from the king to investigate the subject, 269, 270.

Cockburn, Sir John (of Ormiston), solicits the transference of his grandson's wardship from the king to himself, 260, 261.

Cockburne, Samuel, petitions the king for remuneration of his services, 378, 379.

Coin, false, 262; scarcity of, 328.

Colbrandspeth (Cockbarnspath), Thomas Nicolson wishes to be postmaster of, 353.

Coldingham, abbacy of, articles of agreement concerning it between the Earl and Countess of Hume and John Stewart, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328.

Colquhoun, Alexander, of Luss, submission of his feud with the M-Farlanes, 129, 130; petitions the king for assistance against the Clangregor, 178.

Colville, Mr Alexander, licence granted to him by the king to treat with the Earl of Argyle, 335.

-, Sir James, of Easter Wemyss, ambassador to Queen Elizabeth, 7; writes Lord Kinloss as to want of a proper person in England to support the king's interests, and regarding the Duc de Biron's conspi-

, James, second Lord of Culross, decision in his favonr as one of the postnati, 159.

Commartyn, 44.

Corhead, lands of, 207.

Cornwall, duchy of, great part of it sold by Queen Elizabeth, 40.

Corsehill, Laird of, note, 97.

Consland, 349.

Craig, Alexander, of Rosecraig, his Puetical Recreations, note, 217, 335.

Cranstonn, Lord, letter to John Murray, 270. Crichton, Lord Robert, see Sanquhar.

Crawford, David, eleventh Earl of, accused by the Laird of Edzell of forging letters in his name, 161, 162, 163; Fullarton of that Ilk solicits protection from the king against him, 167, 168; petitions against Laird of Edzell, 276, 277.

-, Jane, Countess of, complains to the king of her husband's ill usage of her, 184.

Cromwell, Thomas, fourth Lord, introduced by Oliver St John to the king, 310,

Crown, poverty of the, 274.

Cuilzeane, murder of Laird of, 151, 155.

Culloden, teinds of, Mackintosh of Culloden refuses to pay them, 264, 265.

Customs, Farmers-General of the, make offer of a larger payment to his majesty, 120; desire all controversies regarding their customs to be referred to the judicatory of the exchequer, 120, 121; complain of new impost of four pounds per ton within jurisdiction of Edinburgh, 121; desire that right of searchery may be wholly referred to them, ib.; and draw the king's attention to case of burghs claiming exemption from all customs, ib.

Customs, the royal burghs of Dunfermline, Kirkaldy, and Musselburgh, claim total exemption from, 121.

D.

DALRYMPLE, murder of William, by the Lairds of Auchindrane, 151.

Damman, Adrian de Bysterveldt, empowered by James VI. to act in the case of the Earl of Errol's detention, 19; directed by the states of Zealand to inform James VI. of the formation of a powerful army in Spain, and to convey assurances of their friendship, 23; particulars regarding him, note, 23; informs James of loss of Spanish fleet by storm—of the defeat of the Emperor of Germany by the Sultan Mahomet—Altenburg besieged by the Bassa of Bude—death of the King of Spain, 26; peace between the King of France and Duke of Savoy broken—truce between the Turk and the Poles renewed, 27.

Danielston, Mr Robert, conservator at Campvere, note, 17, 134, 148, 149.

Dantzig, states of, letter to them from James VI., 211; Scotch subjects at Dantzig petition King James regarding edict commanding the removal of all strangers from Dantzig, 367.

Declony, Susanna, claims payment of account due to her bushand Adrian Vanson, King's painter, 191.

Dick, Gilbert, patent granted him by the king for printing book of Common Prayer, 320.

——, William (afterwards Sir), bis transactions with Sir James Baillie and Viscount Annand, 356, and note, 359.

Dorrell, Mr, 232.

Douglas, Sir William, of Drumlanrig, solicits John

Murray's interest with the king in procuring the condemnation by the council of persons apprehended for plundering his sheep, 278.

Douglas, David, of Cashogill, affray between his and Drumlanrig's tenants, 337, 338, 339, 340.

Drumlanrig, Laird of, bas been put in trust of Captain Johnston's estate, 206; disputes between him and Lords Sanqubar and Kilmaurs settled, 225; fined 3000 merks for sending challenges, 226; affray between bis and Cashogill's tenants, 337, 338, 339, 340.

Drummond, Sir Alexander, appointed judge of the Court of Session, 131.

Dunbar, Earl of, 83, 85, 89, 97, 98, 109, 122, 123, 172, 194; his death, note, 196, 197, 198.

Dunbarton, in danger from inroads of the sea, 87, 88.
Dunfermline, burgh of, claims to be exempted from all custom duties, 121.

70; affray between Johnstons and Maxwells about the bouse of Newby, ib.; reports proceedings of the council in the Marquis of Huntly's case, 71; and general tranquillity of the country, 72; mentions affray between the Lairds of Edzell and Pittarro, and reports the tranquil and flourishing state of the country, 73, 74; viodicates himself, in concert with Lord Balmerino, from accusations circulated against them, 79, 80; writes the king on behalf of town of Dunbarton as to grant for enabling them to erect a bulwark against the inroads of the sea, 87, 88; reports success of king's designs for the improvement of Scotland, 88; praises Earl of Dunbar, 89; alludes to domestic affliction, ib.; announces universal prevalence of the plague, 90; hopes the king will not give ear to reports against him, 91; reports disordered state of Athol, 94; and exertions of council in adjusting feuds, 95; communicates proceedings of council in the Master of Gray's dispute with his father, 111; and for settlement of feud between Haitley of Mellerstanes and Home of Eccles, ib.; mentions seizure of ship belonging to Estates of Flanders, 112; announces solemnization of the anniversary of the king's escape from the Gowrie conspiracy, 114, 115; vindicates Earl of Abercorn from allegation of having taken the part of the Laird of Auchindrane, 127, 128, 129; denies having engaged in political intrigues with the queen, 142, 143, 144; reports examination of the Lairds of Auchindrane, 154; apprises the king of satisfaction given by his chaplains, Drs Goodwin and Milwaird, 169; has read the work lately published by his majesty, ib.; refers to his epigram upon the king, ib., 171; informs the king of Earl of Dunbar's success in bringing the Borders to a state of subjection and tranquillity, 172,

173; reports the capture of pirates on the coast of Orkney, 193, 194, 195; urges upon John Murray the necessity of procuring a speedy decision from the king in dispute between Lord Sanquliar and natural son of the late lord, 215; letter to John Murray, 21S; requests he may be furnished with a new bag for carrying the great seal, 219, 220; obliged to John Murray for his good offices in the dispute hetween Sir Claude Hamilton and the Lord Deputy of Ireland, 221; cautions John Murray against giving credit to what may be alleged against him and his nephews by Laird of Skelmuirlie, ib., 222; announces adjustment by the council of dispute between Lords Sangubar and Kilmaurs, and Drumlanrig and his brother, 225, 226; relates measures pursued in procuring the surrender of Bishop of the Isles' son and the Laird of Ranfurlie by the rebels of Isla, 240, 241, 242; letter to John Murray, 256, 257; reports arrest of utterers of faise coin, 262; writes John Murray regarding his nephew's pretensions to the carldom of Eglinton, 263, 264; states obstacles to his making a journey to London, 267, 268; praised by Lord Sanguhar, 284; hostile to Earl of Tullibardine's claim to Earl of Athole's title. &c., 280, 281; Earl of Home writes him regarding the placing of his son on the commission for trying Francis Stewart's matters, 297, 298; acquaints John Murray with the progress of his law proceedings, 31S; recommends claims of Dr Hamilton to the archbishoprick of Cashel to John Murray, 332, 333; dies at Pinkie House, 341.

Dunkeld, Lord (Sir James Galloway), note, 115.Durie, Reverend Robert, writes the king contradicting accusations against him, 148, 149, 150, and note.

D.

magistrates of, petition the king as to grants for improving the city of, 333, 334.

Edinburgh, ministry of, its ill-appointed state—pulpits filled by incompetent preachers, 108.

Edzell, Laird of, encounter between him and Laird of Pittarro, 73; accuses Earl of Crawford of forging letters in his name injurious to his credit, 161; and desires to be protected against him by the king, 162, 163; petitioned against by Lords Crawford and Spynie, 276, 277.

Eglintoun, Hugh, fourth Earl of, murdered by Lairds of Robertland and Corsehill, 97.

———, Hugh, fifth Earl of, cited before privy council, 85, 86; his feud with Earl of Glencairn, 95, 96, 221.

———, Countess of (Lady Aun Livingstone), letter from her to Mrs Murray, 288, 289, 290, 291.

Egyptians, law regarding reset of, 320.

Elizabeth, Queen, letter to her from Sir Nicolas Bacon, 1, 2, 3, 4; from James VI., 6, 7; her sickness, and grief for death of Earl of Essex, 39.

, the Lady, provision for her on her marriage,

Elliot, Robin, accused of fulsifying charter granted by Lord Scott of Buccleuch, 271, 272.

Elphinston, Sir George (Provost of Glasgow), his affray with Laird of Minto, 83, 84.

Elphinstonn, Lord, bis action with Earl of Mar, 346. Errol, Earl of, complains of hardships to which he has been subjected on account of his adherence to the Catholic religion, 16; intercepted in his passage through the Low Countries, 17; desires protection from the king, ib., 18; to he detained till sureties are given for his allegiance, 18, 19; insurrections consequent upon his return to Scotland, 21; suspected of treasonable correspondence with Spain, bit; solicits audience for his messenger from the king, 31; writes the king as to the hawk of Foulsheuch, 76; requests his majesty's protection against machinations of his stepmother, 80, 81; complains of invasion of his hereditary office of constabulary by the privy council in the case of Earl of Glencairn and Master of Wintoun, 81, 82; oath tendered to him, 175; thanks John Murray for kindness shown by him to his son, 286.

Erskine, Sir Thomas (Viscount Fenton, afterwards Earl of Kellie), 45, and note; 220.

Erskyne, David, MS. Account of the Earls of Mar, 38, 48, 78.

Escheats of malefactors' estates granted in favour of the party injured, 304.

Essex, Earl of, has been injured by maintaining correspondence with James VI., 7; his interest with Queen Elizabeth solicited by James VI., 7, 8, note, 37; grief of Queen Elizabeth for his death, 39; English nation stunned by his unexpected death, 42.

Exchequer, act of, for establishment of a fund for the crown's behoof, to be levied monthly, 274.

_____, judicatory of, 120.

F.

FAITH, Confession of, 213.

Fenton, Viscount, 45, and note; 220.

Flanders, Estates of, arrest of vessel belonging to, 112.

Fontenelles, Baron de, 45, and note.

Forbes, Mr John, minister of Aberdeen, his proceedings against Marquis of Huntly, 66, 71.

, Mr John, agent of James VI. at Amsterdam, 388.

____, Lord, his barn-yards burnt, 274.

Foulis, Sir David, 45, and note.

____, Thomas, king's jeweller, Sir William Keith

commends him to the king as worthy to be trusted.

11; letter to him from Sir William Keith, 13, 14,
15, 16; the Lord of Kinloss referred to him for information, 39.

Foulsheuch, hawk of, 76, 77.

Fraser, Sir Alexander, Laird of Philorth, letter to him from James VI. regarding his hawk, note, 78.

Freights of foreign ships, 243; James VI.'s reasons for prohibiting them, 316, 317; discussed before the council, 319.

French refugees, voluntary contribution to be raised for their relief, 323. Fullartoun, William, of that 1lk, entreats the king's protection against the violence of the Earl of Crawford, 167, 168.

Fyvie, Alexander Seton, Lord, President of the Col-

lege of Justice, and afterwards Lord Chancellor—sketch of his life, note, 47, 48. See Earl of Dunfermline.

G.

- Galloway, Reverend Patrick, 108, 109, 110; sermon by him on his majesty's escape from Gowrie conspiracy, 114; sends the king his opinion as to the five Articles of Perth, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310.
- , William Coupar, Bishop of, dies, 318.
- Gibson, Mr Alexander, of Durie, appointed advocate for Lord Elphinstoun in action between him and Earl of Mar, 346.

Glamis, Lord, 69.

- Glasgow, Archbishop of, opposition to his appointment as moderator of Synod of Clydesdale, 117, 118, 119, 120.
- Glenalmond, proposal to make it a forest, 336.
- Glencairn, Earl of, his feud with Earl of Eglintoun, 82, 85, 95, 96, 106; complains of his son's disobedience and misconduct, 192; 221.
- Goodwin, Doctor (one of the king's chaplains), 169. Gordon, James, of Lesmoir, 102.
- ——, George, Lord, applies to the king for grant of a sum of money to maintain his state, 177; informs the king of Macintosh of Culloden's violent resistance to the law, 264.

Gordon, Patrick, 211.

- ——, Sir Robert, of Lochinvar, his dispute with John Murray about lands in Lothiao, 289.
- Gorme, Donald, of Sleat, his feud with Macleod of Harris, 47; complained of by Sir Robert Macleod, 246.
- Gowrie Conspiracy, general thanksgiving for his majesty's delivery from, 87, 117; sermon on the subject by the Rev. Patrick Galloway, 114.
- Grahame, George, employed by the Earl of Dunfermline in obtaining the release of the Bishop of the Isles' son and the Laird of Ranfurlie from the hands of the Highlanders, 241, 242.
- Gray, Lord, 111, 113.
- ——, Master of, his quarrel with his father reconciled, 111, 113.
- —, Sir Ralph, complained against by Earl of Buccleuch for rescue of John Hay, 356.
- Gunpowder Plot, Earl of Montrose congratulates the king on his escape from, 74, 75.
- Guthrie, Mr James, his deposition in the cause betwixt Balvany and Coates, 380, 381, 382.

Η.

- HAITLEY of Mellerstanes, settlement of feud between him and Home of Eccles, 110, 111, and note.
- Halkerton, Laird of, complains to the king of being wronged by the Earl Marischal, 223.

Hall, Rev. John, praised by Rev. Patrick Galloway, 109, and note; intimates election of Sir John Arnot, as provost of Edinburgh, to the king, 153; exculpates himself from misrepresentations to the king, 185, 186.

Hamilton, Dr Archibald, much beholden to John Murray—promised the archbishoprick of Cashel, in Ireland, 332.

Deputy of Ireland, 221, note, 230.

, James, second Marquis of, writes the king regarding delay in granting him charter of the lands of Arbroath, 125; his estate greatly burdened, and therefore anxious to obtain a grant that may enable him to maintain the dignity of his house, 126.

Montgomery, 233, 239.

———, Sir John, deputed by his brother, the Marquis of Hamilton, to represent his case to the king, 126.

Marquis of, placed upon commission, for trial of charges brought by Lord Ochiltree against 8ir Gideon Murray, 340.

John, a religious merchant of Edinburgh, active in importing Calderwood's works from Hulland into Scotland, 387.

, Sir Thomas (afterwards Earl of Melros), king's advocate, 54.

Hartsyde, Margaret, case of, 147.

Hawking, 76, 77, 78, and note, 238.

Hay, Sir Alexander, has delivered the Confession of Faith to the two archbishops in Edinburgh, 213; does not think it can be improved upon, ib.; reports various opinions as to propriety of holding a parliament, 214; mentions proceedings as to excommunicated noblemen, ib.; has been reviewing the old records, and discovers great prejudice done to his majesty, by false retours of lands held of the crown, 235; submits his design for correcting this abuse, 236, 237; informs John Murray of expense of the expeditions for pacifying the Western Isles, 273; disturbances there fomented by interested individuals, ib.; announces Earl of Kinghorn's death, 274: mentions plan for establishing a fund for the crown's behoof, ib.; thanks John Murray for favours received, 275.

—, Francis, letter from him to Lord Chancellor IIay, 368, 369. Hay, Sir George (Chancellor of Scotland), grant in his favour of fens in Orkney, 363; James Reid recommended to him by John Asbburnham, 363, 364; letter to him from Francis Hay, 368, 369; letter to bim from Earl of Seaforth, regarding sale of Lochcarron woods, 365, 366; details his transactions with Lord Kinclevin to the king, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, and note; states his opinion to the king as to difficulty of breaking off the treaty of marriage with the Spanish court, 373, 374, 375; instructed by the king regarding discontinuance of prosecutions against the Catholics, 375.

---, Mr John, 118.

—, John, taken by Earl of Buccleuch, and rescued by Sir Ralph Gray's men, 356.

Henderson, Andrew, accuses Sir Andrew Murray of Balvaird, 136; denies having brought accusations against Lord Scune, 139, 140, and note; decision of privy council in his dispute with the Lord of Scone, 254.

———, Thomas, his ship seized by King of Spain, and himself sent to the galleys, 165.

Herrings, exportation of, 245.

Hewatt, Mr Peter, praised by Rev. Patrick Galloway, 109; intimates election of Sir John Arnot, as provost of Edinburgh, to the king, 153; exculpates himself to the king from misrepresentations, 185, 186.

Holyrood, Earl of Mar wishes to be made keeper of Abbey and Park of, 3‡5.

Holyroodhouse, Lord, 111; thanks the king for honours lately conferred upon him, 116, and note.

Home, Alexander, Earl of, recommended to the king's favour by Earl of Dunfermline, 72; writes the Lord Chancellor, as to placing of his son upon commission for settling the disputes of Francis Stewart, 207

, Mr James, of Eccles, anxious to put an end to his feud with Haitley of Mellerstanes, 111, 112.

Hudson, James, 16.

Hume, Earl and Countess of, articles of agreement between and John Stewart, concerning the abbacy of Coldingham, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328.

Huntly, Marquis of, note, 17; insurrections consequent on his return from banishment, 21; suspected of treasonable correspondence with Spain, ib.; petitions the king to order his release from process of excommunication, 29, 30; suspected of baving mur-

dered the Earl of Murray at the instigation of the king, note, 29; directions as to dealing with him from presbytery of Aberdeen to ministers of Lothian, 33, 34, 35, and note; thanks the king for letters to the council, in his favour, 60; has been cited before presbytery of Aberdeen, ib.; mentions that the union of the kingdoms is preached against by the clergy, ib.; petitions to be freed from their jurisdiction, ib., 61; explains his conduct in Parliament, ib.: professes his attachment to the king, 99, 100; letters to the king on his son's going to court, 122, 123, 124; frequently called to London, to consult about Scotish affairs, note, 123: recommended

by the king to his son, Prince Charles, ib.; more rigorously dealt with than he expected, 145, 146; solicits the king's interference in his behalf, ib.; his conference with Rev. Patrick Symsone, 163, 164; oath tendered to him, 175, 176; assures the king of his allegiance, 183; complains of unreasonable demands of the clergy, 189; desires to be allowed either to have occasional access to the king, or to quit the country with his family, 190; makes satisfaction to the church, 296.

Huntly, Earl of, see Marquis.

I.

INNES, Alexander, of Coates, witnesses produced by bim against the Laird of Balvany and his brother, 380, 381, 382.

Ireland, rebellion in, 148.

Isla, expeditions for pacification of, 273.

Isles, disturbances in the, said to be formented by interested individuals, 273.

J.

JAMES V1., King, sends embassy to Queen Elizabeth, 6, 7; solicits Earl of Essex to give his support to ambassadors sent, 7, 8; informed by Sir W. Keith of particulars of his conference with Doge and council of Venice, regarding the recognition of James' right of succession to English crown, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; desires the States of Zealand to detain the Earl of Errol, 18, 19; instructs Sir William Keith as to negotiating alliance with Venetian republic, 20, 21, 22; introduces Sir W. Keith to Doge of Venice, 22, 23; letters to him from Adrian Damman, 23, 24, 25, 26; assured of friendship

and assistance by States General, 27, 28; petitioned by Earl of Huntly to order his release from process of excommunication, 29, 30; requested by Earl of Errol to give audience to his messenger, 31; receives assurances of friendship from Prince Maurice, 32: informed by Lord Sanqubar of delivery of his letters to Henry IV. and Monsieur de Roban, 35, 36; his private instructions to his ambassadors at English court, 37; letter from him to Shah Abba-, 41, 42, 43; informed by Lord Fyvic of state of Prince Charles' health, 46; and fallen condition of the Clangregor, 47; Earl of Monttose assures

him of his entire blamelessness in regard to queen's visit to Stirling, 48; and mentions particulars of her majesty's dispute with Earl of Mar, regarding custody of Prince Henry, 49, 50, 51; informed by privy council of proceedings relative to Clangregor, 51; and feud between Lindsays and Ogilvies, 52; informed by Lord Fyvie of proceedings in queen's dispute with Earl of Mar, 53, 54, 55, 56; exculpation of Earl of Mar sent him by Earl of Montrose, 57: Earl of Angus vindicates conduct in parliament to him, 58, 59; thanked by Marquis of Huntly, 60; who explains his conduct in parliament, 61, 62; solicited by Earl of Angus to allow his second son to go to baths in Lorraine, 63; acquainted by privy council with proceedings in Marquis of Huntly's case, 64; apprised by Lord Balmerino of proceedings at meeting of estates, 65, 66; letter from Lord Fyvie, 67; informed by Earl of Dunfermline of trial of Alexander Cheyne for assault before privy council, 68, 69, 70; and of their proceedings in Marquis of Huntly's case, 71, 72; informed of affray betwixt Lairds of Edzell and Pittarro, 73, 74; congratulated by Earl of Montrose on escape from Gunpowder Plot, 74, 75; Earl of Errol writes him regarding hawk of Foulsheach, 76; letter from Earl of Mar on same subject, 77; Lords Balmerino and Dunfermline vindicate themselves from reports circulated against them, 79. 80; solicited by Earl of Errol to protect him against machinations of his stepmother, 80, 81; complained to by him regarding encroachment on his hereditary office of constabulary, 81, 82; informed by privy council of their proceedings in the case of the Laird of Minto and Sir George Elphinston, 83, 84; and in regard to feud between Earls of Eglintoun and Glencairn, 85, 86; solicited for grant of money for erecting bulwarks to defend Dunbarton against the sca, 87; informed by Earl of Dunfermline of state of Scotland, 88, 89, 90, 91; informed of proceedings at meeting of assembly in Linlithgow, 92, 93; apprised by Earl of Dunfermline of disordered state of Athol, 94; and of labours of council in adjusting feuds, 95; informed of proceedings as to feud between Earl of Eglintoun and Glencairn, 96, 97, 98; assured by Earl of Huntly of his attachment, 99, 100; Earl of Argyle asks permission for Marquis of Huntly's son to come to Scotland to conclude marriage with his daughter, 101; informed by privy council of measures for capturing certain of the Clangregor, 102, 103; privy council write regarding obstacles to a union of the kingdoms, 104, 105, 106; informed by Earl of Glencairn that the decision of disputes between him and the Montgomeries has been remitted to his majesty, 106, 107; informed by the Reverend Patrick Galloway of illappointed condition of Edinburgh as to its ministers, 108, 109, 110; informed that misunderstanding between Master of Gray and his father has been cleared up, 111; and of steps taken for settlement of feud between Home of Eccles and Haitley of Mellerstanes, 112; Lord Dunfermline acknowledges receipt of letter from him, and announces solemnization of anniversary of Gowrie Conspiracy, 114, 115; thanked by Lord Holyroodhouse, 116; informed by Earl of Abercorn of proceedings at meeting of synod of Clydesdale, 117, 118, 119; letter to him from farmers-general of the customs, 120, 121; letters to him from Marquis of Huntly on sending his son to court, 122, 123, 124; solicited by Marquis of Hamilton to confirm grant of the lordship of Arbroath, 125, 126; Earl of Abercorn vindicated to him by Lord Dunfermline of having taken the part of Laird of Auchindrane, 127, 128, 129; petitioned by Colguboun of Luss to reserve the decreets already obtained by him against the M'Farlanes, in pronouncing decision on submission of their feuds, 129, 130; informed by Lord Balmerino of proceedings relative to Sir Alexander Drummond's appointment as judge of Court of Session, 131; solicited by Earl of Angus to allow his warding place to be changed, 132, 133; letter to him from commissioners of burghs as to supplies said to have been granted to banished ministers, 134, 135; letter to him from Sir Andrew Murray of Balvaird, denying charges against him, 136, 137, 138; letter from Lord Scone to same effect, 139, 140, 141; letter to him from Lord Dunfermline denying political intrigues with the queen, 142, 143; solicited by Earl of Angus to allow him either to go abroad or to be confined in one of his own houses, 144, 145; petitioned by Earl of Huntly to interfere in his behalf, 145, 146; informed of proceedings in Margaret Hartsyde's case, 147; letter to him from Rev. Robert Durie, vindicating himself from accusations against him, 148, 149, 150; thanked by Rev. Patrick Symsone in name of presbytery of Stirling, 151, 152; informed 406 INDEX.

of Sir John Arnot's election as provost of Edinburgh, 153; apprised of proceedings against the Lairds of Auchiodrane, 154; solicited by Earl of Cassillis to grant warrant for putting them to the torture, 155, 156; informed by Lord Blantyre of escape of Earl of Athol, 156, 157, 158; receipt of his decision in Lord Colville's case acknowledged by privy council, 159; letter to him from Earl of Angus, 160; his protection against Earl of Crawford solicited by Laird of Edzell, 161, 162; ease of Thomas Henderson represented to him by privy eouneil, 165, 166; Fullarton of that Ilk entreats his protection against Earl of Crawford, 167; informed by Lord Dunfermline of satisfaction given by his chaplains, Drs Goodwin and Milwaird, 168, 169; his newly published work praised, ib.; petitioned for assistance by Jane Stewart (Lady Lindores), 170; informed by Lord Duafermline of success of Lord Dunbar's efforts for tranquillizing the borders, 171, 172, 173; solicited by Earl of Angus to allow him to return to Scotland for a short time to arrange his affairs, 174; petitioned for an allowance of money by George Lord Gordon, 177; his interference solicited by Colquboun of Luss to put down Clangregor, 178; unsettled state of the borders, and remissness of erown officers in performing their duty, represented to him by inhabitants of the late horders, 179, 180, 181, 182; receives professions of gratitude and obedience from Marquis of Huntly, 183; complained to by Countess of Crawford, regarding her ill treament by her husband, 184: letter to him from Rev. John Hall and Peter Hewat, 185, 186; grants special warrant for appointing Mr Peter Rollock of Piltonn an Extraordinary Lord of Session, 186, 187, 188: informed by Marquis of Huntly, that he has signed the articles of religion, directed to him by the king, and taken the oath of allegiance, 189, 190; grants warrant in favour of Earl of Augus, 191; instructs privy council to enquire into claim of late Adrian Vanson, king's painter, 191, 192; Earl of Glencairn, complains to him of his son, Lord Kilmaurs, 192, 193; informed of capture of pirate ships on the coast of Orkney, 193, 194, 195; Earls of Dunbar and Dunfermline praised to him by Sir Robert Melville, 196, 197, 198; James Johnstoun recommended to his merey by privy council, 199; thanked by University of St Andrews, for his design of establishing a library there, 200; recommends Lord Ochiltree to Sir Arthur Chichester, 201; petitioned by commissioners of burghs, 202, 203; petitioned by magistrates of Canongate to expede act of Parliament in their favour, 208; informed by Sir Duncan Campbell of the losses inflicted on him by Clangregor, 209, 210; thanks the States of Dantzig for their zeal in putting down libels against him, 211; explains his wishes with regard to establishment of a company of English merchants in Prussia, ib.; instructs John Speman as to tax to be levied on British subjects to defray expense of Stireovius's proseeution, 212; letter to him from Sir Alexander Hay, 213, 214; bis instructions required as to proportion of produce of silver mines to be levied for crown's behoof, 216; letter to him from Earl Marischal, regarding accusations advanced by Laird of Halkertoun against him, 223, 224; Sir Lachlan Macintosh represents his grievances to him, 226, 227, 228; solicited by Sir R. Maeleod to aid bim in the recovery of his estates, 245, 246, 247; petitioned by Sir John Cockburn, to coavey to him the wardship of his grandson, 260, 261; informed of violent proceedings of Maeintosh of Culloden, 264, 265; letter to him from Earl of Angus, 266; ealls for report on state of collieries from Lord Chancellor and remanent Lords of College of Justice, 269, 270; petitioned by Earl of Crawford and Lord Spynie against Laird of Edzell, 276, 277; appealed to by Earl of Caithness, regarding reports circulated to his prejudice, 287; informed by Earl of Lothian of failure of negotiation for redemption of the forfeited lands of Johnstounbourne, 291; apprised by Lord Melville of the flourishing state of Scotland, 293; thanked by Francis, Earl of Bothwell, 294: informed by Earl of Montrose of proceedings at the meeting of Assembly in Aberdeen, 296; privy council reeommend grant of a monopoly for an improved method of manufacturing linen cloth and roof tiles in Scotland, 299; articles submitted to him by the justices of peace for Aberdeen, for reformation of abuses, 300; states his reasons to privy council for projected visit to Scotland, 302; solicited by Sir Gideon Murray to confer the escheated estates of Scott of Bonyngtoun upon his son-iu-law, 304; receives opinion of Rev. Patrick Galloway, on five articles of Perth, 305: Lord Cromwell introduced to him, 310; applied to by Sir James Lundie, as to the teinds of the barony of Lundie, 314; transmits his determi-

nation to the council with regard to the freighting of foreign bottoms, 316; solicited for pecuniary aid by Earl of Tullibardine, 321; Tullibardine proposes means for relieving his indigence, 322; recommends a voluntary contribution, for relief of French refugees, to the privy council, 323; apprised of extreme scarcity of coin in Scotland, 328; petitioned by magistrates of Edinburgh, as to grants for improving the city of Edinburgh, 333; Earl of Morton begs leave from him to negotiate with Earl of Argyle, 335; assured by Earl of Mar of his attention to proposed plan for laying out Glenalmond as a forest, 336; writes Marquis of Hamilton regarding commission for trial of charges against Sir Gideon Murray, 340; gives instructions relative to Earl of Mar's action for recovery of Kildrimmie, 342; receives proposal from Earl of Mar, regarding money to be borrowed for buying in of certain pensions, 347; solicited by Lady Beatrix Ruthven, to preserve to her the possession of the estate of Cousland, 349; addressed by Earl of Mar, on the appointment of Sir Archibald Napier to be Treasurer Depute of Scotland, 350; his instructions regarding dispute between Earl of Buccleuch and Sir Ralph Gray solicited by privy council, 356; petitioned by Scotch subjects at Dantzig, to interfere in their defence, 367; informed by Lord Chancellor Hay, of particulars of his transactions with Lord Kinclevin, 369; receives opinion

of Lord Chancellor Hay, respecting marriage of Prince Charles, 373; orders discontinuance of prosecutions against Roman Catholics, 375; John Wolfe complains to him against one Sires, for invasion of the duties and privileges of his office, 376; petitioned by Samuel Cockburne for remuneration of his services, 378, 379; account drawn up for him by Patrick Scot of his proceedings in the Low Countries, 385, 386, 387, 389, 390, 391.

Jesuits, numerous in Scotland, 134.

Johnston, Captain, kills the Laird of Wamfray's brother and escapes, 206; his lands in danger of being escheated to the crown, 207; killed in a fray between the scrvants of Drumlanrig and Caschogil, 339.

Johnstons, feud betwirt them and Maxwells, 68, 70, 72.
Johnstoun, James, sentenced to lose his hand for shooting of pistoletts, recommended to the king's mercy by privy council, 199.

______, St, house and furniture surrendered to Lord Scone, 218.

Johnstounbourne, lands of, 291.

Jonson, Ben, lines by him referring to Wolfe, the king's apothecary, 378.

Justice, College of, recommended to the particular care of his majesty by Earl of Dunfermline, 56; information respecting the privileges of its members, 382, 383, 384.

К.

Ketth, Sir William, informs the king of his meeting with Doge and Council of Venice concerning the recognition of James VI.'s right of succession to the crown of England, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, and note; urges Thomas Foulis to furnish him with intelligence of what is passing in Scotland, 13, 14; reports assurances of good will on the part of the Italian States to James VI., 15; afraid of James Hudson, 16.

Ker, Sir Thomas, commissioned by Earl of Huntly to convey assurances of his fidelity to the king, 183. Kildrimmie, Barony of, claimed by Earl of Mar, 342, 343, 344, and notes.

Kilmaurs, Lord, complained of to the king by his father, 192, note, 225.

Kilwinning, erection of Abbacy of, 107.

_____, Abbot of, 97.

Kinclevin, John Stewart, Lord, his transactions with Lord Chancellor Hay respecting the purchase of Kinclevin and Innernytie, 369, 370, 371, 372.

Kinghorn, Earl of, his death, 274.

Kinloss, Abbot of, ambassador to Queen of England, 7; private instructions to him by James V1., 37; letter from an unknown person to him, 38, 39, 40, 41, note, 196. Kirkaldy (Churchealdye), burgh of, claims exemption from all custom duties, 121.

Kirkwall, church of, seized by hastard son of Earl of Bothwell, 226.

Drend

L.

Lamb, Mr Andrew, appointed Bishop of Brechin, 99, 248

Lagcaster, Duchy of, 10, see Cornwall.

Largo, kirk of, 316.

Lauderdale, Viscount, applies to Viscount Annand on behalf of Mr James Burnett, minister of Lauder, 360.

Lawriston, Laird of, diligently attentive to church matters, 68.

Lennox, Duke of, 99.

Libberton, appointment of minister at, 360.

Lindores, Lady, 170, see Jane Stewart.

Lindsay, Anna and Margaret, daughters of Alexander Lord Spynie, petition the king against the Laird of Edzell, 276.

_____, Baruard, claims right of searchery, 121.

, Sir David, kills Lord Spynie, note, 162.

, Patrick, see Bishop of Ross.

———, Sir Walter, assassinated by Earl of Crawford, note, 162. Lindsays, submission between them and the Ogilvies,

Linen, manufacture of, in Scotland, 299.

Lochcarron, woods at, 365.

Lochew, Earl of Seaforth's works at, 365.

Lochinvar, Sir Robert Gordon of, his dispute with John Murray regarding lands in Lothian, 289.

Lochmaben, kindly rentallers of, 205, and note.

Lorrain, baths in, 63.

Lothian, Robert, second Earl of, writes the king as to negotiations for redemption of the forfeited lands of Johnstounbourne, 291, 292.

Aberdeen regarding Earl of Huntly, 33, 34, 35.

Lundie, Sir James, descended from William the Lion, 314; solicits the king's interference as to settlement of teinds exigible from his barony of Lundie, 314, 315, 316.

----, Sir Robert, 315, and note.

Luss, Alexander Colquhoun of, see Colquhoun.

M.

 king for a release from his imprisonment, 226, 227, 228, 229.

Mackduffe, Mr Alexander, minister at Campvere, proposes appointment of a moderator at meeting of Dutch, English, and Scotch ministers at the Hague, 389

Macleod, Sir Robert, solicits the king's assistance in the recovery of his estates, 245, 246, 247.

—— of Harris, 47.
M'Donald, Angus Ogg, leader of rebels in the Western Isles, 241.

M'Farlanes, the, submission of their feud with Colguhonn of Luss, 129, 130, and note.

M'Gillichallum, John Dow, a notorious cateranwounded in conflict with Gordon of Lesmoir, 102, 103, and note.

, Allester, apprehended by James Gordon of Lesmoir, 102, 103, and note.

M'Intosh of Culloden, offers armed resistance to enforcement of legal warrant against him, 264, 265.

M'Kenzie, Sir George, account by him of the descent of the Lundies of Lundie, note, 315.

Magragh, Miler, Archbishop of Cashel, in a very weak state, 332; note as to him, ib.

Mahomet, Sultan, makes himself master of Wallachia, 26.

Mar, MS. genealogy of the Earls of, notes, 38, 48, 78. -, Earl of (Lord High Treasurer of Scotland), private instructions to him, as ambassador to English court, 37; very graciously received by Queen Elizabeth, note, 38; appointed governor of Prince Henry, note, 48; his dispute with the queen regarding custody of the prince, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 57; promises to obey the king's directions regarding the tersel of Foulsheuch, 77, 78; writes John Murray on behalf of the Laird of Vachtune, 238; writes the king regarding proposal to lay out Glenalmond as a forest, 336; announces the chancellor's death to John Murray, 341, 342; instructions by James VI. relative to his action for recovery of the barony of Kildrimmie, 342, 343, 344, and notes; wishes to be made keeper of Abbey and Park of Holyrood, 345; informs John Murray of proceedings in his action with Lord Elphinston, 345, 346, 347; writes the king as to raising funds for buying in certain pensions, 347, 348; acknowledges intimation of Sir Archibald Napier's appointment to be Treasurer-Depute of Scotland, 350, 351.

Countess of, announces Lord Chancellor's death to John Murray, and her husband's wish to be appointed Keeper of the Abbey and Park of Holyrood, 344, 345. Marischal, George Earl, vindicates himself to the king from charges brought against him by the Laird of Halkertoun, 223; desires that both parties may be cited before the Privy Council for the trial of these charges, 224, and note.

, Margaret, Countess of, behaves ill towards her busband, note, 221.

_____, William, Earl of, 224.

Maule, Patrick, of Panmure, see Panmure.

Maxwell, Lord, 68, 72.

_____, Herbert, 362.

Maxwells, feud hetwixt them and the Johnstons, 68, 70, 72.

Mayene, Monsieur de, James VI. advised by Lord Sanquhar to secure his goodwill, 35, 36.

Mellerstanes, Haitley of, settlement of his feud with Home of Eccles, 111, 112, and note.

Melville, Robert Lord, 220; apprises the king of the flourishing condition of Scotland, 293, 294.

Middle Shires, Commissioners of the, of great service in tranquillizing the country, 205; 356.

Milwaird, Doctor (one of the king's chaplains), has given great satisfaction by his learning, eloquence, and godliness, 169.

Mines, silver, 216.

Minto, Laird of, younger, fray between him and Sir George Elphinstonn, provost of Glasgow, 83, 84.

—, Stewart of, his feud with Earl of Wigtoun and Master of Montrose, 97, 98.

Moffat, lands of, purchase of Captain Johnstone's interest in them recommended to John Murray, 206, 207.

Monharant, Monsieur, Governor of Rheims, 44, and note.

Money, circulation of foreign, prohibited, 328; its partial reintroduction recommended, ib.

Mons, Compte, 44.

Montgomery, Sir Hugh, disputes between him and Sir James Hamilton adjusted by Earl of Abercorn, 233; recommended to John Murray by the Earl of Abercorn, 239; writes John Murray regarding his disputes with Sir James Hamilton, 250, 251, 252, 253; sketch of his life, note, 253.

Montrose, third Earl of, protests himself to have been no party to the queen's journey to Stirling, 48, 49, note, 57; congratulates the king on his escape frum the gunpowder conspiracy, 74.

, fourth Earl of, apprises his majesty of pro-

ceedings of General Assembly at Aberdeen, 296, 297, and note; solicits the king for leave to negotiate with Earl of Argyle, 335.

Montrose, Master of, his feud with Lord Blantyre, 97.

Mordington, James, Lord, second son of Earl of Angus, 63, and note.

Morgan, Master, apothecary to Queen Anne of Denmark, 376.

Mouswall, James Douglas of, 337.

Mowat, James, letter from him to the king, regarding Macintosh of Culloden's refusal to pay the teinds of his lands, 264, 265.

Murray, Sir Andrew, of Balvaird (afterwards first Viscount Stormont), vindicates himself from charge of having spoken disrespectfully of the king, 136, 137, 138, 139, and note.

_____, Earl of, murdered by Huntly, note, 29.

—, Sir Gideon (Treasurer-depute of Scotland), asks instructions from the king regarding proportion of produce of silver mines to be levied for the crown's use, 216; mentions bis dispute with Archbishop of St Andrews, ib., 217; verses on him by Rose of Rosecraig, note, 217; actively employed in repairing the royal residences and fortresses, 294; solicits the king for grant, in his son-in-law's favour, of Scott of Bonyngtoun's escheat, 304, 305; informs the king of great scarcity of coin in Scotland, 328; and recommends partial reintroduction of foreign money, 329; charges brought against him by Lord Ochiltree to be tried, 340.

, John, of Lochmaben, letters to him from W. Wheitfurde, 204, 205, 206, 207; Earl of Dunfermline urges upon him the necessity of a speedy decision in Lord Sanquhar's case, 215; letters to him from Earl of Dunfermline, 218, 219, 220; thanked by him for his good offices in dispute between Sir Claude Hamilton and the Lord Deputy of Ireland, 221; cattloned against Laird of Skelmuirlie, lb., 222, 225, 226;

desired by Earl of Abercorn to intimate his departure on his majesty's service to the king, 229, 230; letter to him from Archbishop of Canterbury, 231, 232; letter to him from Earl of Abercorn, 233, 234, 235; letter to bim from Sir Alexander Hay, regarding retours of lands holding of the crown, 235, 236, 237; Earl of Mar writes to him regarding Laird of Vachtune, 238; letter from Earl of Ahercorn accompanying Sir Hugh Montgomery and Sir James Hamilton's letters, 239, 240; Earl of Dunfermline sends him a statement of his proceedings for effecting release of Laird of Ranfurlie and the Bishop of the Isles' son, 240, 241, 242; Sir Hugh Montgomery writes him regarding his dispute with Sir James Hamilton, 250, 251, 252, 253; letter to him from Earl of Dunfermline, 256, 257; letter to him from Lord Sanguhar, 256, 257, 258; letters to him from Earl of Dunfermline, 262, 263, 264, 267, 268, 269; cautioned against Robert Elliot by Lord Scot of Buccleuch, 271, 272; letters to him from Sir Alexander Hay, 273, 274, 275, 276; from Sir W. Douglas of Drumlanrig, 27S, 279; from Earl of Tullibardine, 280, 281; from Francis, titular Earl of Bothwell, 282; from Lord Sanguhar, 283, 284, 285; from Earl of Errol, 286; from Anne Countess of Argyll, 312, 313; from Earl of Dunfermline, 318, 332; from Earl of Mar, 341, 345; from Conntess of Mar, 341; see Viscount Annand.

Murray, Jean, sister of John Murray, 270, and note.

———, Mrs, letter to her from Countess of Eglintoun, 288, 289, 290.

Mungo, 355; second Viscount Stormont, note, ib.

——, Sir Patrick, proprietor of Glenalmond, 336.
——, Patrick, shews instructions from the king to the presbytery of Aberdeen, 33.

____, Mr William, 257.

Musselburgh, burgh of, claims exemption from all custom duties, 121.

forego his pretensions to Justice-Clerkship, 358; surprised at Viscount Annaud's silence respecting that office, 362; appointed Justice-Clerk, note, 363;

Nassau, Comte Maurice de, writes James VI. regarding the ship Phonix and prisoners in her, 4, 5, note; James Balfour of Pitcullo recommended to him by James VI., 5, 6; sends assurances of his friendship to James VI., 32; description of him by Baron de Maurier, note, 32, 33.

r- Newby, house of, 70.

Nicholson, Mr James (Bishop of Dunkeld), 99, and note.

———, Thomas, applies to Viscount Annand regarding postmastership of Colbrandspeth, 353; 361.

Nithsdale, Earl of, 351.

Northmeberland, Henry, Earl of, commits snicide in the Tower, note, 40; inquisition taken post mortem, ib.

0.

OCHLITREE, Lord, Andrew, recommended by James VI. to Sir Arthur Chichester on his going to take possession of escheated laods in Ulster, 201, 202, and note; charges brought by him against Sir Gideor. Murray, 340.

———, Sir James Stewart, created Lord, note, 289.
Ogilvies, their fend with the Lindsays submitted to privy council, 52.

Ogilvy, Master of, subscribes submission between the Lindsays and Ogilvies, 52.

_____, the Jesuit, 262.

Oldenbarneveldt, John of, note, 5.

O'Neale, Con, Lord of the Claneboys, 251, and note, 253.

Grange, Prince of, 3; see Nassau, Comte de.

Orkney, Earl of, 52; convicted of treason and executed, 258.

_____, Bishop of, presents letters from the king to privy council, 98.

______, pirate ships taken on the coast of, 194,195, 218. ______, fening of, 362, 370.

Ormiston, Sir John Cockburn of, 260, 261.

Ρ.

PALATINATE, contribution for, 384.

Pannnre, Patrick Maule of, dispute regarding his teinds with Marquis of Hamilton, 125, 126.

Papists, prosecution of, 110, 118, 119; said to be favoured by the king, 149; prosecutions of them ordered to be discontioned, 375.

Paton, George, MS. note book of, 83.

Perth, five articles of, opinion of Rev. Patrick Galloway on, sent to the king, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310; written against by David Calderwood, note, 385.

Phœnix, the ship, 4.

Pirates, English, frequent on the Scotish coast—engagement with a pirate ship and pinnace, on the coast of Orkney—the ship taken, and 37 men with their captains, Perkins and Randall, put to death, 194; the pirate's parson apprehended, and gives evidence against them, 195; a number of English pirates taken by the inhabitants of Orkney, 218.

Pittarro, Laird of, his affray with the Laird of Edzell,

Plague in Scotland, 65, 67, 89; universal over Scotland, 90.

Portage, disallowed to all unfreemen, 320.

Postnati, case of the, 159.

Prayer, Book of Common, patent for printing it granted to Gilbert Dick, 320.

Privy Council of Scotland, acquaint the king with their proceedings relative to the Clan-Gregor, 51; desire to be furnished with a ship for transporting some of the clan into banishment, 52; mention proceedings in submission betwixt Lindsays and Ogilvies, ib.; report proceedings to the king in process of excommunication brought by presbytery of Aberdeen against Marquis of Huntly, 64; inform Earl of Dunbar of steps taken by them in quelling disturbance in Glasgow, between Laird of Minto and Sir George Elphinstoun, 83, 84; report their proceedings to the king in reference to feud between Earls of Eglintoun and Glencairn, 85, 86; inform the king of change of Earl of Athol's ward from castle to burgh of Edinburgh, 102; and of measures adopted for apprehension of John Dow M'Gillichallum and his brother Allester, 102, 103; write the king as to opposition offered in England to union of the two countries, 104; have always advocated such an union, not from any bope of benefit to Scotland, in particu_ lar, but merely because it was desired by his majesty, 104, 105, 106; informed by Lord Gray that his complaint against his son had proceeded on erroneous information, and that it is unnecessary to proceed farther in the matter, 113; inform the king of proceedings in Margaret Hartsyde's case, 147, 148; acknowledge receipt of the king's decision in Lord Colvill's case, 159, 160; represent case of Thomas Henderson to the king, 166, 167; instructed to inquire into debt said to be due to Adrian Vanson, king's painter, 191, 192; recommend James Johnston to the king's mercy, 199; notes of their proceedings in dispute between Lord Scone and Andrew Henderson, 254, 255, 256; intimate to the king their approval of proposed introduction of improved methods of manufacturing linen and roof tiles into Scotland, 299, 300; informed by the king of his reasons for intended visit to Scotland, 302, 303, 304; furnished by the king with bis determination as to the freighting of foreign bottoms, 316, 317; note of their proceedings on this and other subjects, 319, 320; receive directions from the king as to voluntary contribution in aid of French refugees, 323; refer dispute between Earl of Buccleuch and Sir Ralph Gray to the king, 356, 357.

Prussia, establishment of a company of English merchants in, 211.

Prymrois (Primruse), Archibald, 327, 328.

———, Duncan, 327, 328.

Puritans of Scotland, correspondence between them and the Low Countries said to be increasing, 390.

R.

RAMMERSKAILS, 205.

Ramsay, Robert Abroche M'Gregour, takes the name of, 209.

Ranfurlie, Laird of, taken prisoner by rebels of Isla, 240; ancestor of the Earls of Ranfurlie, note, ib.; released, 241. Rattray, John, accused of peculation by Countess of Argyle, 312, 313.

Records, greater part of them burnt in 1545, 236.

Reid, James, recommended by John Ashburnham to Lord Chancellor Hay, 363, 364.

- Retours of lands held of the crown greatly undervalued, 235, 236.
- Robertland, Laird of, one of the murderers of Hugh, fourth Earl of Eglintoun, note, 97.
- Rohan, Monsieur de, 35, and note.
- Rollock, Mr Peter, appointed an Extraordinary Lord of Session, 186.
- Ross, Bishop of (Patrick Lindsay), letter to him from John Carse, 248, 249, 331, and note.
- Rothes, John, fifth Earl of, marries Lady Anne Erskine, 290.
- Ruthven, Lady Beatrix, solicits the king to preserve her in possession of the estate of Cousland, 349, 350, and note.
- ——, Lady Mary, married to John fourth Earl of Montrose, note, 297; some account of him, ib.; his death, ib.

S.

- SANQUHAR, Robert, sixth Lord Crichton of, reports to the king the delivery of his letters to Henry IV., 35, 36; some account of him, note, ib.
- of late lord, 215, 259, 283; his variance with Drumlanrig adjusted, 225; writes John Murray as to redemption of lordship of Sanquhar, 257, 258; disappointed at not having been made a privy councillor, 284.
- , lordship of, proceedings for redemption of,
- Savoy, Duke of, rupture of peace between him and king of France, 37; his attempt on Geneva, 44.Scone, Lord, 136, 139; his dispute with Andrew Hen-
- Scone, Lord, 136, 139; his dispute with Andrew Henderson, 254, 255, 256, 280, 281.
- Scot, Patrick, his account of his expedition in pursuit of David Calderwood, the church historian, 385; traces him to Amsterdam, 387; but finds it impossible to procure his arrest, ib.; suhmits proposals to the king for the reformation of the English and Scotch clergy in the United provinces, 388, 389, 390; and observations on the leaning of British subjects resident in United Provinces to Puritaoism, on their contempt of Episcopacy, and on the practice of sending forbidden works from England and Scotland to be printed there, 390, 391, and notes, 385, 386, 391.
- —, Simon, of Bonnington, murders Walter Scott, son of the Laird of Harden, 304.

- Scot, Thomas (author of Vox Populi), resident at Utrecht, 387.
- ——, Walter, son of Scott of Harden, murdered, 304.
- Seal, Great, of Scotland, bag for carrying, 219; a new bag wanted, 333.
- Seaforth, Earl of, writes Lord Chancellor Hay, respecting sale of woods at Lochcarron, 365; and as to works at Lochew, 366, 367.
- Semple, Lord, submission of his fend with Earl of Glencairn, 85, 86.
- Sesse, Duke of, letters from, 21.
- Seton, Lady Isabella, marries Francis, titular Earl of Bothwell, note, 295.
- Setoun, Sir William, 289.
- Session, Court of, lack of knowledge and learning in judges of, 56; appointment of vacation in the winter session, construed by the common people as an allowance of general idleness and licentiousness, 85; Mr Peter Rollok appointed one of the Extraordinary Lords of Session, 186; privileges of its members, 352, 383, 384.
- Shirley, Sir Anthony, ambassador at the court of Persia, 41, and note.
- Simpson, Mr William, hostile to appointment of Archbishop of Glasgow, as moderator of the synod of Clydesdale, 118.
- Sinclair, Lady Agnes, Earl of Errol solicits protection from the king against ber macbinations, 80, 81.

Sires, a servant of Master Morgan, complained against by John Wolfe, 376, 377, 378.

Skelmuirley, Laird of, his character by Earl of Dunfermline, 221, 222.

Somerset, Earl of, bis quarrel with John Murray, 288.
Spain, King of, intends to invade Scotland, 20, 21;
report of bis death, 26; common enemy of Scotland and Holland, 28.

Spanish fleet destroyed by a storm, 26.

Speman, John, instructed by James VI. as to levying a tax upon Scotish subjects resident at Dautzig for defraying expense of Stircovius' prosecution, 212, 213.

Spottiswood, Archbishop of St Andrews, 330, 331; deputed to court by Convention of Estates, 332.

Spynie, Lord, signs submission between the Lindsays and Ogilvies, 52; slain by Sir David Lindsay, 162, and note.

—, second Lord, petitions against Laird of Edzell, 276, 277.

St Andrews, University of, thank the king for bis purpose of founding a library in their college, 201.

Archhishop of, his dispute with Sir Gideon Murray, 216; struck with apoplexy, 257; Spottiswood, Archbishop of, 330; deputed to court by Convention of Estates, 332.

St John, Oliver, recommends Lord Cromwell to the king, 310.

Star of Babylon, lands said to hold of, 206.

Stewart, Lady Dorothea (daughter of John, fifth Earl of Atholl), marries William, second Earl of Tullibardine, note, 321. Stewart, Francis, titular Earl of Bothwell, 218; requests John Murray to second his petition to the king, 282, 283; thanks the king for favours received, and acknowledges his father's delinquencies, 294, 295, and note; has submitted all his disputes to the king, 297; goes to court, 352, and note.

—, Sir James of Killeith, Lord Ochiltree, 289.

———, Jane (Lady Lindores), represents her necessitous condition to the king, 170.

—, John, articles of agreement between him and Earl and Countess of Hume concerning Abbacy of Coldingham, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328.

Stircovius, John, tried and executed for libel against Scotland, 212, and note.

Stirling, Presbytery of, letter in their name by Patrick Symsone to the king, 151, 152.

, town of, devastated by the plague, 91.

Stormont, Viscount, congratulates Viscount Annand on being raised to the peerage, 354, 355.

Sugar, plan for refining, approved of by Privy Council, 320.

Symsone, Rev. Patrick, thanks the king in name of Presbytery of Stirling for his gracious reception of Commissioners of Assembly, 151; praises his policy in religious matters, ib.; mentious writings against the king, 152; his history of the Christian church, note, 152; informs the Commissioners of General Assembly of particulars of his conference with the Marquis of Huntly, 163, 164.

Т.

Teinds, fends frequently occasioned by rigorous exaction of, 315.

Teith, Forestry of, granted to Robert de Lunden by King William, note, 315.

Tercel of Foulsheuch, 77, and note.

Testaments, gift of escheats for non-confirmation of,

granted to Samuel Cockburn, 378; such grant found prejudicial to the king's authority and withdrawn, ib.

Tiles, improved system of manufacturing them proposed to be introduced into Scotland, 299.

Tullibardine, William, second Earl of, thanks John

Murray for former favours, 280; and solicits his support to his claim upon Earl of Athole's title and estates, ib., 281; is auxious to effect an arrangement for obtaining the wardship of Lord Kinghorn, 281; in extreme poverty, and supplicates pecuniary assistance from the king, 321; has sold all his patrimony, has mortgaged the estates of Athol, and is otherwise deeply in debt, 322; proposes to the king to make him an English baron, with an allowance from Exchequer, or clse to allow him to sell his title, ib.

U.

Union of Eogland and Scotland, preached against by the clergy, 60; opposition to, 104, 105. United Provinces assure James VI. of their friendship, 27, 28; practice of English printers and stationers sending forbidden works from England and Scotland to be printed there, 390.

V.

Vachtune, Laird of, letter in his behalf from Earl of Mar to John Murray, 238.

Vanson, Adrian, kiog's paioter, claim of, 191.
Vaughan, William, engravings by bim to the account of Sir William Dick's sufferings, note, 359.

Venice, Doge and Council of, particulars of their conference with Sir William Keith, regarding acknowledgment by them of James VI.'s right of succession to English crown, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

W.

WALLACHIA, conquered by Sultan Mahomet, 26.Wamfray, Laird of, his brother killed, 206.Weldon, Sir Anthony, mentions that Sir James Baillie had got a pretty estate, note, 363.

Whorlton, 40, and note.

Wigtono, Earl of, his misunderstanding with Lord Blantyre reconciled by Earl of Dunbar, 97. Winton, Master of, 82. Wheitfurde, W. writes John Murray as to feuars on his property of Lochmahea, 204; mentions activity of the Commissioners of the Middle Shires, 205; informs him of Captain Johnston's flight after killing Laird of Wamfray's brother, and probability of his lands being escheated, 206, 207; advises purchase of his share in lands of Corheid and Moffat, 207. Whittingham, Laird of, engaged in prosecution of the Laird of Vachtune, 238.

William the Lion, ancestor of Sir James Lundie, 314. Wilson, Mathew, 204, 205.

Wolfe, John (principal apothecary to the king), complains against one Sires for invasion of his office, 376, 377, 378; Ben Jonson's notice of him, note, 378. Wrae, or Wray, Edward, 327, 328.

Y.

YULE (Julius), Alexander, grant by the late Lord Cromwell to bim and Adam Abercromney, 311.

Z.

ZEALAND, States of, instructed by James VI. as to detention of Earl of Errol, 18, 19.

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